



# A DAY BACK IN THE CONSTITUENCY

**H**AVING given an example of a day in Westminster in my last column, today's article will, I hope, give an insight into a typical Friday in the constituency.

8.30am Linda, my office manager, arrives at my home to work through the programme for the day, with letters and emails to respond to or sign, and invites to be answered.

**9.30am** Leave for Bridgend to meet with the Crown Prosecution Service. The Criminal Justice System involves many agencies working together to ensure that communities are kept safe. The most visible are the police and the courts.

For many, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not immediately spring to mind but this is the Government department responsible for prosecuting criminal cases investigated by the police in England and Wales.

After evidence is gathered by the police, the CPS decides whether a case should be pursued further. If it

is not pursued, it is dropped.

They prosecute on behalf of the state if there is enough evidence to provide a 'realistic prospect of conviction' against each defendant on each charge, and if the case is in the public interest.

The CPS acts in the interests of victims of crime and has a particularly important role to play in helping victims of domestic violence, hate crimes and antisocial behaviour.

Domestic violence cases are often complicated because the victim is intimidated and reluctant to press charges. For many years, conviction rates were disappointing, as witnesses struggled to cope with the judicial system.

The CPS has played an important role in turning this situation around, with staff receiving specialist training on domestic violence. They now work with independent domestic violence advisers (who work alongside victims from the point of crisis through the criminal justice system and beyond), and a number of national and local organisations which offer support to

victims throughout the proceedings.

There are now dedicated witness care units in all CPS areas, run jointly by the CPS and the police. Witness Care Officers provide a single point of contact and support for witnesses to ensure they are able to give their best evidence.

Support can include interpreters for witnesses with hearing impairments or language difficulties; enabling frail older people to give their evidence while seated; or allowing witnesses to give their evidence via a live link, to avoid the need for them to be physically present in court.

Special measures can also be used to reduce intimidation and help a victim or witness to give evidence. The CPS can request that a court sit in private to protect the identity of the witness, ask the judge to exclude people from the court room or to issue a 'reporting direction', which means that nothing will be published during a witness' lifetime that could lead to them being identified.

These measures are also available to those who have been the victims of hate crimes

motivated by sexuality or religion. Witnesses in such cases are often afraid of reprisals, or of others finding out details of their private lives and where they live.

One of the major hurdles CPS staff can face is convincing juries that crimes have been committed – that the drunken, mini-skirted flirtatious woman did not want to be raped, that the confused elderly lady did not want her money taken or that the young man with learning disabilities was beaten and robbed.

**12pm** Meeting with police officers to look at a new initiative explaining to young people the risks they face posting information on social networking sites. This is a particular interest of mine, and I have information leaflets for parents and children available on my website at <http://www.madeleinemo.com>.

The presentation was excellent and should be rolled out across all schools. Frighteningly, it showed how information posted by a local person selected at random could be used to harm them, and how numbers of people in

## WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

**Bridgend MP  
MADELEINE MOON**  
is writing an exclusive monthly report from Westminster for The GEM.



the 35+ age range are growing on social networking sites, many of whom may be paedophiles posing as children.

**1.30pm** Telephone conversation with Councillor Mott, leader of Bridgend County Borough Council. I have been very concerned, following a meeting with the new coroner, Mr Maddox in Westminster, that there were plans to hold all inquests in Aberdare.

I had sought the help of the local council in ensuring facilities would be available for inquests could be heard locally. Mel confirmed that this would now happen.

**2.30pm** Wonderful visit to Y Bont to meet staff and children there. We are so fortunate to have this excellent facility locally.

**4pm** Bridgend market to buy a birthday present; an array of fine

olive oils and balsamic vinegars for a friend who loves to cook.

**5pm-6pm** Letters and emails dealt with.

**7pm-10.15pm** Porthcawl Rotary Club annual dinner; I am the guest speaker. I have just been offered honorary membership of the branch so am especially pleased to be invited to speak. Few people appreciate the work Rotary carry out to raise funds for an array of good causes.

Porthcawl Rotary has, for example, helped provide a computer and other equipment for a local safe house for children, five ploughs for five villages in Zambia, shelter boxes for disaster zones as well as financial support towards fighting polio and fellowships for health workers to undertake work in some of the poorest communities in the world.

## Assembly praise after Blaengarw Trust's award

THE Labour AM Association's UK-wide award for community-inspired regeneration.

Speaking in First Minister's Questions in the Assembly, the AM said: "You have visited the trust with me, First Minister, so you know that in less than a decade it has launched a series of community activities and businesses, and built up a turnover of £250,000."

### HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MAY 28)

The high tides listed in The GEM are those in Barry. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Porthcawl, the high point will be 15-20 minutes earlier.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
21 Thur	04.44	13.1	17.11	13.1
22 Fri	05.35	13.5	18.02	12.3
23 Sat	06.21	13.9	18.51	14.1
24 Sun	07.11	14.3	19.39	14.5
25 Mon	08.07	14.5	20.21	14.6
26 Tues	09.01	14.5	21.11	14.8
27 Wed	09.49	14.4	22.02	14.5
28 Thur	10.34	14.2	22.55	14.2

## Bridgend student wins Welsh Skills competition

**SIMON JOHNS** from Bridgend has won the top plumbing accolade at the Welsh heat of SkillPLUMB, a challenging two-day competition organised by SummitSkills, the Sector Skills

Council for building services engineering hosted by Coleg Llandrillo.

Twenty-one-year-old Simon, employed by K C John Gas & Plumbing in Carmarthen and a student from Bridgend College, competed against seven other contestants from Wales.

Competitors comple-

ed a theory examination and a seven-hour practical test based on a typical real-life work situation, involving installing pipework, valves and jointing.

Simon said: "I am

delighted to have won

the Welsh heat of

SkillPLUMB. It is great

to be recognised for my

hard work and efforts.



Left to right: Chris Smith, director at Coleg Llandrillo, Simon Johns, winner of the 2009 SkillPLUMB Welsh heat and Mike Phoenix representing APHC, premier sponsors.

## LOCAL INFORMATION

**MADELEINE MOON** MP for Bridgend Westminster office - 02072194417 Constituency office - 47, Nolton Street, Bridgend. Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10am - 12pm. Telephone 01656 750002

**HUW IRRANCA-DAVIES** MP for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 737777

**JANICE GREGORY** AM for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 860034

**CARWYN JONES** AM for Bridgend Constituency office 01656 664320

Bethan Jenkins AM for South West Wales Telephone 01639 643549

**BRIDGENG CAB** Citizens' Advice Bureau, Ground Floor, 26 Dunraven Place, Bridgend CF31 1JD 01656 654951 – Open to personal callers: Tuesday-Friday 10am-12.30pm or telephone service: Monday-Friday 10am-12.30pm.

**MAESTEG CAB** Citizens' Advice Bureau 01656 734662

**POLICE** Bridgend 01656 655555

Porthcawl 01656 785411

Maesteg 01656 732122

**CRIMESTOPPERS** 0800 555111 (Emergency number 999)

**COASTGUARD** 01792 366534

**GAS** (escapes and emergency) 0800 111999

**ELECTRICITY** (power cuts) 0800 0520400

**WATER SUPPLY** (emergency) 0800 0520130

**FLOOD LINE** 0845 9881188

**HELPLINES**

Alcohol and drugs:

Drinkline 0800 9178282

National Drugs Helpline 0800 776600

DASH 01656 650686

**SSAFA** – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families in need 01656 785435

**RAF Association Welfare Officer**

01495 249522/01446 740522

**SAMARITANS** (emotional support) 01656 662333

**MENTAL DISTRESS**

(Mental Health Matters) 01656 767045

**CHILDLINE** 0800 1111

**NSPCC** 0800 800500

**RSPCA** 0300 123 0744

**WOMEN'S AID** 01656 766139

Bridgend Carers' Centre 01656 658479

Alzheimer's Society (Bridgend) 01656 651490

**BRIDGENG COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL** (selected numbers)

Housing service

(General inquiries) 01656 643643; (emergencies out of hours) 01656 663247; (homelessness) 01656 643542.

**EDUCATION** 01656 642643

**LEISURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES** 01656 642677

**HIGHWAYS** (drains, blockages etc) 01656 643421

**HIGHWAYS EMERGENCIES** (outside normal working hours) 07831 143600

**SOCIAL SERVICES**

(general enquiries) 01656 642200

**SOCIAL SERVICE EMERGENCIES** (outside normal working hours) 01443 204010

**HOSPITALS** Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend 01656 752752

Bridgend and District NHS Trust 01656 752752

**VOLUNTARY WORK** Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) 01656 810400

**TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS**

Brackla Community Council 01656 767072

Bridgend Town Council 01656 659943

Cefn Cribwr Community Council 01656 741354

Coity Higher Community Council 01656 656358

Cornelly Community Council 07882 044798

Pyle Community Council 01656 670251

Coychurch Higher Community Council 01656 863418

Coychurch Lower Community Council 01656 647216

Garw Valley Community Council 01656 736751

Laleston Community Council 01656 656506

Llangynwyd Lower Council 01656 728662

Maesteg Town Council 01656 732631

Merthyr Mawr Community Council 01656 670058

Newcastle Higher Community Council 01446 772536

Ogmore Valley Community Council 01656 849402

Pencoed Town Council 01656 869031

Porthcawl Town Council 01656 782215

St Brides Minor Community Council 01656 725031

Ynysawdre Community Council 01656 736751

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## News from Porthcawl Male Choir

### Choristers are thanked for their support of the RNLI

PORTHCAWL Male Choir recently had a welcome visitor to their choir practice at Arlington Presbyterian Church, Arlington Road, Porthcawl when Mr John Abrahams, the chairman of the Porthcawl RNLI fundraising committee, presented choir chairman, Mr Viv Griffiths and the choir with a certificate from the RNLI.

The certificate acknowledges the RNLI's thanks for the choir's dedication and support to the RNLI service over many years.

#### Albert Hall concert

Members of the Porthcawl Male Choir, with wives and friends, spent a weekend in London, culminating with the choristers participating in the Gwyl Corau Meibion Cymru (a joint festival of massed male voices in the Albert Hall).

Musical director was Dr Alwyn Humphreys, accompanied by pianist Caradog Williams and



ABOVE: John Abrahams presents the certificate to Viv Griffiths, chairman of the Porthcawl.

organist Huw Tregelles.

Artistes supporting were an 11-year-old singer Steffan Morris, a group of signers from Ysgol Gerdd Ceredigion, and Eirlys Myfanwy Davies, a 21-year-old vocalist.

## PORTHCAWL AT CENTRE OF 'CAN YOU SING?' COMPETITION

FOLLOWING the success of the competition for young singers in any musical genre last year, Patricia O'Neill is 'delighted' to announce details of

### Laughter and tears at meeting

#### PORTHCAWL/NEWTON WI

THE resolutions meeting this month heard Val Thomas, one of the founder members, read two very amusing and clever pieces.

Then Anne Thomas read a poignant poem concerning the sending of the Christmas Child parcels. Between the two subjects, we had both laughter and tears.

Shirley then read the report on the council meeting held in Brangwyn Hall in Swansea, on April 28 attended by 57 WIs and a total of 799 members.

Jan read a report on the resolution passed at the meeting at Briton

Ferry in January concerning the fate of disappearing honey bees. The meeting closed with delicious birthday cake for two 80-years-young ladies, Val and Joyce.

During the meeting, forthcoming events were also discussed – including the popular trip to Blenheim Palace on May 20 ending with dinner at St Mary's Golf Club.

On May 9, a 'hop' was held at North Cornelly Community Centre which was well supported by locals and WI members alike.

Anyone wishing to find out more about the WI can contact Pearl on 01656 782557, or Judy on 01656 785477.

BM

this year's event in aid of children's hospices.

Patricia, who lives in Porthcawl, said that the competition seeks to promote singing to young people under the age of 21.

There are categories for age groups nine to 11, 12 to 14, 15 to 17 and 18 to 21 for solo voices and also, new for this year, a category for duos and groups in the age categories.

There is a £1,000 prize fund on offer, together with appearances for the overall winner on the Chris News Show, a solo place in the Remembrance Day concert at St David's Hall, Cardiff, and the possibility of representation by a West End agent.

Preliminary rounds will be held in June at Porthcawl (June 20 at the Rest), Cardiff, Bristol, Caernarfon, Wrexham, and Llanelli.

The semi-final will be held at Porthcawl Grand Pavilion on Sunday, July 19 and the final will take place at The Riverfront

Theatre, Newport, on September 26.

Speaking after the launch of the competition, Patricia Wheatley said: "I have spent my whole life either singing or teaching professionally and to encourage young people to develop their talent in the world of music is a wonderfully rewarding experience.

"This is an opportunity for young people from the ages of nine to 21 to start on a path that can lead to such wonderful rewards."

Judges at the preliminary rounds include vocal tutors, professional singers and agents. In the final they will be joined by the Welsh soprano and Grammy award winner, Rebecca Evans.

All profits from this year's competition will be donated to the Children's Hospices in Wales.

Further details and an application form (closing date May 31) can be found at the competition's web site, [www.patriciaoneill-wheatley.com](http://www.patriciaoneill-wheatley.com)

## YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

### Parc Hospital staff reunion

I HAVE received a letter from Pam informing me that there will be a reunion party for former Parc Hospital staff at Tondu Cricket Club on Friday, September 4, 7pm till late.

She writes it was supposed to be a biannual event, but it was such a success last year, demand has taken over and she will be organising it again this year instead of next.

The party last year raised large sums of money for her nominated charities, and obviously she hopes it will do the same this year. She is asking any past employees if they can help. Age is creeping up and energies are lower!

If you would like to help, or want more

information, please telephone 01656 721713 or 07504 057911.

### Maesteg Hospital

MAESTEG Children's Choir and Maesteg and District Male Voice Choir will be holding a concert on Tuesday, June 16 in the cricket field grounds.

All money raised is to be donated to the League of Friends of the hospital.

### Aberkenfig and District WI

ON May 13, president Eunice Williams opened the spring meeting with a warm welcome for all 16 members present.

Happy Birthday was sung to Eileen and Nancy.

Eunice then outlined the events during the last month; seven members attended the recent Friday Night Hop at North Cornelly Community Centre. This was a great success – one member (Dorothy) danced every dance and thoroughly enjoyed herself.

The fish and chip lunch in April was again very successful; another similar event will be held on August 12.

A team has been entered for the quiz night on June 8 in Coyerchurch Memorial Hall.

Another planned event will be a visit to the Aubrey Arms for lunch, followed by a foray into Marks and Spencer in October.

Next was the debate on the resolution for this year 'SOS for Honey Bees'. Beekeepers have warned that the country's honey bees could be wiped out by disease in 10 years unless urgent research is carried out to find new treatments and drugs.

### NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL  
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ  
TEL: 01656 725399  
email: [tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk)



### Nature reserve

Parc Slip Nature Reserve, Tondu is holding a family event on Tuesday, May 26, meeting at the visitor centre at 1pm, entitled 'Wind in the Willows'.

Guides will show everyone around the reserve and you may spot a real life Mr Toad, Badger or Ratty.

It is envisaged that the tour will finish at approximately 4pm, the cost will be £1.50 per person and to book a place, telephone 01656 724100, as places will be limited.

### Sarn Community Centre

TEN children, aged six to 14 from Sarn, were recently encouraged to participate in an event funded by the Communities First Team, involving Academi, Bridgend libraries and arts development.

The children spent three days in creative writing of poems titled 'Journey to Porthcawl' under the guidance of the author Anita Flowers.

The artist Dom Williams encouraged the children to draw a series of images to help illustrate their poems over a period of four days. These images were then copied onto large wooden boards and, using acrylic paints, the children completed three colourful murals depicting the journey.

Each child was encouraged to record their own poem, and these were then used to create an audio visual DVD as a permanent memento of their fine work.

Margaret Griffiths, the Bridgend children's librarian, stated that the murals will be kept on permanent display and used to enhance the new extended library at the centre. A copy of the DVD will be kept at the library.

### DIABETES COFFEE MORNING INVITE

A COFFEE morning to raise money for Diabetes UK is being held in Trinity Church, Porthcawl, on Friday, May 29, from 10am-12noon.

The event is also aiming to increase awareness of diabetes, and to give more information about this condition.

At the coffee morning there will be stalls including plants, cards and a raffle, and diabetic recipe cake.

### Services

AT St David's Church, Bettws, there is a special Ascension Day service at the church today (May 21) at 7pm. At St David's Church, Pontycymer, there will be a praise Pentecost service on Sunday, May 31 at 6pm.

### Tynyrheol Primary School

MR Martin Griffiths, headteacher, has asked that parents take note that inappropriate hairstyles are not suitable at the school.

He points out that children come to school to learn, and conspicuous hairstyles take the emphasis off learning and often result in the child being ridiculed by their peers.

Also, the school is unable to take any pupils with inappropriate hairstyles on school visits or sports matches to other schools due to incidents that have occurred in the past.

The school will break up for the Whitsun holiday on Friday, May 22 and will restart on Monday, June 1.

### Aberkenfig Retired Persons Club

THE club meets at the Len Evans Centre, Heol Personly, every Wednesday between 1.45pm-4pm, visitors and new members are most welcome.

On Thursday, June 18, the club is organising a coach trip to Weston-Super-Mare, leaving the Central Café at 9.30am.

The cost is subsidised and is £7 per person. There are still a few seats available, so if interested please telephone Joyce/Tom on 01656 720823/72026.

## Under-age drinking targeted in a borough-wide action day

FIFTY representatives from public agencies across Bridgend borough recently joined forces, to tackle under-age drinking and its impact on crime and disorder.

Organised by the Safer Bridgend Community Partnership, the 'Young Person's Alcohol Action Day' saw South Wales Police, Bridgend County Borough Council, the Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations, the National Public Health Service, the Substance Misuse Action Team and other agencies

join forces to address the issues relating to under-age drinking in the borough.

The aim of the action day was to strengthen joint partnership working and to develop a multi-agency plan for the next six months to tackle the issue.

Council leader Mel Nott said that the event had the "full support" of the council. Chief Insp Simon Belcher promised that the outcome of the action day would be "taken up to the very top". Led by Siobhan Riordan from 'learning communities training', the day-long session

started with the team completing an exercise on the perception of under-age drinking, before breaking down into four smaller teams to brainstorm opportunities for partnership initiatives.

Fifteen young people also attended the session to give their views on under-age drinking and offer suggestions from a young person's perspective. Refreshments during the day were provided by young people working with the Youth Offending Service.

The action day followed alcohol workshops for 100 front line workers across the borough, organised by the

National Public Health Service and South Wales Police.

Conway Hawkins, Antisocial Behaviour Reduction coordinator for the Safer Bridgend Community Partnership, who organised the action day said: "Drinking by young people is a serious issue in the Borough, not only in respect of antisocial behaviour but also in terms of young people's safety and health.

"By working together, agencies in the area can do a lot to reduce this problem and make Bridgend a safer place for us all."

The fish and chip lunch in April was again very successful; another similar event will be held on August 12.

A team has been entered for the quiz night on June 8 in Coyerchurch Memorial Hall.

Another planned event will be a visit to the Aubrey Arms for lunch, followed by a foray into Marks and Spencer in October.

Next was the debate on the resolution for this year 'SOS for Honey Bees'. Beekeepers have warned that the country's honey bees could be wiped out by disease in 10 years unless urgent research is carried out to find new treatments and drugs.

New members and guests are always most welcome.

# The £750,000 sea outfall scheme is completed in time for summer season

SEAFRONT beach, Porthcawl, is on standby for the summer tourists following the completion of Dwr Cymru Welsh Water's £750,000 scheme to replace the long sea outfall.

Although the previous concrete outfall pipe on the beach - known locally as Town Beach - was operating effectively, structural wear and tear meant a new pipe was needed to safeguard public health and safety, and to give the beach a facelift, it was explained.

The previous outfall pipe was six feet high and ran down the middle of the beach - however, the majority of the new pipe has been laid within the rock and under the sand.

"The work, which began in November 2008, has been completed in time for the summer season and will improve the view of the beach for local people and tourists alike," said project manager Paul James.

"The scheme was designed to address aesthetic and safety issues surrounding the existing structure. The new outfall will directly benefit people in the Porthcawl area - particularly those residents overlooking the beach.

"We hope the improvements at Seafront beach will have a positive impact on the busy tourist season in Porthcawl," he added.

A separate £1.4m Welsh Water project is also taking place in Porthcawl to alleviate the risk of internal flooding to properties. It includes the renewal of sewers along the Esplanade, Esplanade Avenue, Well Street, Mary Street, part of John Street car park, Hillsborough Place and Dock Street and is scheduled to be completed in early June.



The long outfall pipe, before (above) and after the work was completed (below).



## Fun day

THERE will be a family fun day at Porthcawl Primary School, Meadow Lane, on Saturday, June 6 (12pm-4pm).

So what is happening? Face painting, pony rides, lots of fun stalls for the kids plus a 45ft adventure inflatable.

Entertainment also includes demonstrations from the Sea Cadets, Tai Bo Kick Aerobics, Morris Dancers, St Clare's dancers, and sports events.

There is a pirate or princess fancy dress theme on the day with a parade and prizes for best dressed boy/girl.

For more information or to have a stall, telephone Annette on 01656 788554.

## Councils to stick together

A GUM busting machine may be bought by a consortium of town councils which would share it.

Coun David Unwin told Bridgend Town Council that various councils were interested in buying one jointly, and he said he had written for costings.

He said: "Gum is a major problem on all our streets, and it is relentless.

"It's no good spending millions on regeneration if we have pavements stained with gum. "We will need to get Bridgend cleaned up before the Wales in Bloom judging takes place."

## Local planning applications

Mrs Ritchie, 3 Leckwith Rise, Bridgend - felling and removal of branches.

Porthcawl 1 Comprehensive School, Park Avenue, Porthcawl - single storey gymnasium store.

Emma Gibby, 2 Llys Coed, Broadlands - removal of condition one, relating to the provision of two off-street parking spaces.

Miss J Martin, 12 Alexandra Road, Pontycymmer - detached garage and storage area.

K Evans and M Evans, 46 and 48 Dunraven Place, Bridgend - change of use to offices on first floor of 48 Dunraven Place and second floor of 46 Dunraven Place, and fire escape to rear.

Ms A Cooke, Greenacres, Laleston

- demolish existing house and construct new with attached swimming pool and garage wings, altered access and new wall.

Mr and Mrs Jones, 5 Willesden Road, Cefn Glas - new front entrance porchway.

Jacobs UK Ltd, The Old Mill Viaduct, Llangynwyd - remove existing security fence and install palisade fences.

Mr A John, land adjacent 9 Meadows Street, North Cornelly - detached dormer bungalow.

Mr R Dunster, 42A Highfields, Brackla - erect 5ft fence totally enclosing front garden with an entrance gate.

Mrs S Holmes, land adjacent 40 Meadow Close, Coychurch - two storey four bedroom house.

Mr R Crawley, 110 Heol West Plas, Coity - demolition of existing garage and single storey extension to side/rear.

Mrs J Roche, The Paddocks, Bryn Road, Tondu - one new residential dwelling.

Nolan Recycling Limited, Recycling Waste

Transfer Station, The Old Quarry, Stormy Down - vary condition 2 of 08/441 to allow servicing of vehicles outside the stated times.

Mr S Jones, land off New Street, Pantyfog - extend the time to submit reserved matters by two years.

BCBC Children's Directorate, Trelales Primary School, Well Street, Laleston - provision of new cycle shelter on existing car parking and provision of replacement parking spaces.

Mr R Dunster, 42A Highfields, Brackla - erect 5ft fence totally enclosing front garden with an entrance gate.

Mrs S Holmes, land adjacent 40 Meadow Close, Coychurch - two storey four bedroom house.

Mr R Crawley, 110 Heol West Plas, Coity - demolition of existing garage and single storey extension to side/rear.

Mrs J Roche, The Paddocks, Bryn Road, Tondu - one new residential dwelling.

Archdiocese of Cardiff, land off Whitethorn

# THE BRIDGEND MALE CHOIR CELEBRATES GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY WITH NEW CD RELEASE

BRIDGEND Male Choir has recorded its 50th birthday golden anniversary celebratory CD in readiness for release later this year.

This undoubtedly would have been assisted by the choir engaging the services of the UK's foremost sound quality engineer, Richard Scott.

The CD recording was masterminded by former EMI and Universal Records executive, Gordon Lorenz, who worked closely with the choir's skilled and charismatic musical director, John Jenkins.

As well as enjoying the musical support of its excellent accompanist, Laura Smith, choristers were also supported by organist, Scott Williams from Brackla, who had worked with the choir on numerous previous occasions.

To add that special extra touch the choir had

engaged the services of members of one of the UK's best known group of musicians, who no sooner than they had finished recording, were dashing back to join the rehearsals for the Welsh National Opera's production of *La Bohème*.

The choir is very grateful to Tabernacle Chapel at Bridgend for the use of its excellent facility and wonderful acoustics, and is also indebted to its own music committee for its hard work, headed by choir vice-chairman, John Gould.

Gordon Lorenz, who has been at the helm for the production of more than 800 albums, was wholesome in his praise for the quality of the CD which he said is "one of the best".

To place an advance order for a copy of the new production, please



contact choir secretary, Gareth Reese on 01656 862037, or send a message to the choir's website www.bridgendmalechoir.co.uk

DAVID T BURT

ABOVE (from left): Gordon Lorenz, producer, Richard Scott, sound engineer, and a team member.

## Bridgend named one of the top UK 'green places'

BRIDGEND has been named among the greenest places in the UK - and the greenest in Wales.

The area has more 'green' businesses, organisations and representatives per capita than almost anywhere else.

Bridgend has a recycling centre, farm shop, environmental consultant, insulation installer, organic food shop, double glazing business, asbestos removal service or conservation group for every 3,095 local residents, but no Green councillors,

according to local information website local-life.co.uk. Tony Martin, chairman of local-life.co.uk, said: "Bridgend is riding high in the environmental stakes and sits in sixteenth place nationally. In times of economic uncertainty it's easy for green issues to be put on the back-burner, but it seems the people of Bridgend continue to make eco-friendly choices. It's clear businesses and services such as farm shops and environmental consultants need customers to survive. As long as Bridgend doesn't rest on its green laurels, there's no reason it can't break into the top ten in 2010."

or organisation per 1,453 people - but second place Peterborough is closing in on the crown. Six of the top twenty towns have one or more Green councillors.

Tony Martin, chairman of local-life.co.uk, said: "Bridgend is riding high in the environmental stakes and sits in sixteenth place nationally. In times of economic uncertainty it's easy for green issues to be put on the back-burner, but it seems the people of Bridgend continue to make eco-friendly choices. It's clear businesses and services such as farm shops and environmental consultants need customers to survive. As long as Bridgend doesn't rest on its green laurels, there's no reason it can't break into the top ten in 2010."

## Going walkies is very good for dog owners' health too!

### DOGS Trust

Bridgend is supporting a new Health Challenge Wales campaign aimed at getting people to 'take small steps to improve their health and fitness'.

The Dog's Trust, which houses dozens of abandoned and unwanted animals at its rehoming centre, relies on teams of volunteers to give the dogs their daily exercises - and says that a walk is just as good a way for humans to stay healthy as it is for their four-legged friends.

The centre's manager, Beverly Price, said: "Dog walking is part of our everyday routine here at the Trust. It's a great way to keep fit, and enjoy some of the wonderful countryside

that Wales has to offer.

"We are happy to support the campaign, and would like to see more people enjoying the great outdoors with their dogs!"

A spokesperson for the Health Challenge Wales campaign said:

"With the latest phase of our campaign now underway, we are trying to get across the message that making small and inexpensive changes to a daily routine can make a big difference to one's health.

"There are lots of little changes people can make - such as walking a dog, or walking some of the way to work. Some other things, such as quitting smoking are a little harder, but there are still simple steps people can take to help them".



ABOVE: Pictured are Christine Griffiths Smith and her dog Gromit, with Mark Eagleton and Mandy (left) and Richard Goss and Archer (right).

## **SOCIAL WORKERS DID NOT TELL POLICE ABOUT ABUSE**

# **The Vale Council apologises after its 'inexcusable failings'**

**Report by JAYNE ISAAC**

**'A BLEAK day for the Vale'.**  
That was how Vale Council leader Gordon Kemp described the publication of an inquiry into how a 19-year-old man with history of sexual problems was given an adult placement by Vale social workers with a family that included two young children – a three-year-old boy and a nine-year-old girl.

He sexually abused both the children and has since been jailed for an indeterminate period, with a tariff of at least six years.

The parents of the children were never warned of the teenager's sexual background and it emerged during the inquiry that this information was also never passed onto some of the social workers responsible for placing him with a family.

Now, the Vale Council has given an unreserved apology to the family and to the community – and has instituted a huge shake-up in its procedures to ensure that such failings never happen again.

Three members of the 'Leaving Care' team at the council have been suspended, and now face further disciplinary action following the publication of the inquiry report.

The report concluded that social workers were too concerned with looking after the interests of the 19-year-old – who they regarded as a victim. They did not properly assess the risk

he posed to the two young children.

The inquiry has drawn up 12 recommendations to prevent such a case arising again, and they have been included in an action plan.

Coun Kemp said that it was a bad day for the council and it reflected a tragic situation, especially for the two children and their parents.

The complaint against the man was made by the children to their parents on December 30 last year.

He was immediately removed by social workers but they failed to follow procedures laid down under child protection rules, and did not notify the police of the alleged abuse.

Instead, it was the parents who did this three days later. The man was then arrested and subsequently prosecuted.

Coun Kemp stated he first became aware of the case at the beginning of January and fully backed social services director Philip Evans in his decision to carry out a thorough investigation, with assistance from the NSPCC.

The Vale Council press conference was given details of the background to the case, and of the action plan drawn up by the council to tackle failings and ensure that such a case did not arise in future.

Coun Kemp said: "The report that we have today highlights failings made in the social services department, particularly by individuals in that department, which led to this situation arising."

Speaking to The GEM after the press

conference, Coun Kemp gave an assurance as council leader that his role, and those of all the elected members, would be to ensure that the action plan would be fully implemented.

He said that there would be monitoring of the process by the cabinet, by council scrutiny committees and by backbench councillors to make sure that the recommendations made in the report were acted upon.

"We will be kept fully informed of progress," he added.

Asked about the funding of the Social Services department, Coun Kemp said that the authority was spending more than it was required to spend under Assembly funding rules on social services.

"But it's how we spend this money that's important," he said. "It must be targeted properly and we must have the right staff in place."

Coun Kemp was asked if there was a culture in the social services department of failing to follow proper procedures and of cutting corners. He replied that the investigation had not produced any evidence of this.

"But the cause of this problem was staff not following procedures and we will ensure that there are checks in place to monitor how staff carry out their duties, and to make sure that the rules are followed.

"We must guard against any relaxation in the rules at any time. We need proper safeguards in place to ensure that procedures are followed."

He said that all the other adult placements made by the authority had been checked since

this case came to light and all were found to be in order.

Chief executive John Maitland Evans described the situation as tragic and he said he was very sorry.

He pointed out that the council had not sought to make any excuses or cover anything up.

"This is a very bad report – the worst report I have ever seen in my time with the council. But the report provides us with a basis for action and some of this has already begun.

"The failings of a small number of staff make grim reading. There was failure to assess risk, there was bad professional judgement and a failure to follow the All Wales Child Protection procedures.

"This sort of practice is unacceptable and it must never be repeated."

He said that the 12 recommendations in the report provided the basis for the change that was needed.

"I am angry that we made mistakes and I am determined to ensure that they are not repeated."

Social services director Philip Evans said that anyone reading the report would be distressed by what happened to the two children, and would also be shocked and angry at the serious mistakes that were made.

"They will be concerned to ensure that other children do not suffer in the same way. People in the council feel exactly the same. We have to accept responsibility for the harm caused.

"This means facing up to the criticisms made in this report. We must regain and restore public trust in our social services."

Mr Evans stated that urgent action had been taken to set up the inquiry to find out what went wrong, who should accept responsibility and how the council could ensure such things do not happen again.

"Serious mistakes were made and we are not offering any excuses. We accept entirely the findings of the report. It is especially sad that we let down a family who welcomed this young man into their home.

"We need to give urgent reassurance to people who provide adult placements for us that all the current placements we have are safe.

"There must be no question of our absolute commitment to protect children in these homes and that means sharing

all relevant information with those families."

Mr Evans said that the responsibility for placing the young man with this family was shared between a number of staff, but it was the work of the Leaving Care team that had the most adverse impact.

"We have changed all the managers in this service," he said.

"Although the inquiry found evidence of some high standards of work, it is right to focus on what went wrong here.

"I am especially concerned about the assessment of risk – they were naive and did not take account of the full case history."

He stated that after the allegations of abuse were made by the parents, social workers did not follow child protection procedures and call in the police. Instead, the parents did that themselves.

"The failure of staff to act is almost beyond understanding," he went on. "There were many safeguards in place to prevent this but the conduct of some staff and managers fell seriously below standard. These are experienced, qualified staff who have worked in the Vale for some time."

Mr Evans promised that further disciplinary action against those suspended would follow quickly.

He said that shortcomings identified in the report would be rectified by the action plan including issues to do with training and supervision.

"Some staff must acquire a better understanding of risk and they must place proper emphasis on the risk posed by service users to others. We are getting on with these changes and we want them all in place within months."

He said that he was brought into the Vale last year to address problems in social services and this case had shown how deep some problems were.

"There's a long way to go, but I can assure people in the Vale and elsewhere that the action plan will be delivered and delivered on time.

"We can, we must and we will do better.

"Sadly, these changes have come too late for this family. We acknowledge that staff made serious errors of judgement and we accept responsibility for those decisions and for the harm they have caused."

Coun Dorothy Turner, cabinet member for social and care services, said she was the link between residents and the department.

She added her apologies and said that people must be shown that the authority was trustworthy.

There was fierce questioning of the panel at the press conference with most questions directed at Philip Evans, including a call for him to consider his position.

He said that it was right for him to do that as the serious errors were made by staff in his directorate.

"We have an action plan that must be delivered and I am committed to that and it is important to see it through. It is not a time to walk away from these problems."

"Resignation is an easy thing to do but it would not be responsible. It's important to stay and see through this programme."

Confidence in Mr Evans was expressed by Coun Gordon Kemp, who said he was the best person to see the changes through.

"He has been in post since the beginning of 2008 and my view is that he has done well. I am pleased with his work and confident that he will see this action plan through to a successful conclusion."

Vale AM Jane Hutt said that she would be meeting with Gwenda Thomas AM, the Assembly Deputy Minister for Social Services, to "discuss the actions she is taking to hold the Vale Council to account".

Jane Hutt added: "As the Children's Commissioner has said, this was an inexcusable series of events", which resulted in a serious failure to protect the children who have been affected so adversely by these events."

**Bridgend enters Wales in Bloom**

**BRIDGEND is to enter the Wales in Bloom competition this year.**

plus the restoration of the old buildings will all be important.

"As a council, we have restored the Randall Memorial in Caroline Street and carried out shrub planting and other landscaping, including our Cydcoed schemes in Craig y Parcau and Newbridge Fields plus the wild-flower meadow on Reuben's Field.

"Work has been done around Newcastle Church and the castle, and we have cleaned Ruhama burial ground, plus our project with the garden at St. Mary's Primary School.

"All of these will be included. It will be put together as a package to be judged and it costs us nothing to enter. We will be put forward in the small town category and judging will be at the beginning of July.

"This could be the start of putting Bridgend on the environmental map."

He added that there were no roads being dug up in Bridgend at the moment – which was a plus.

## **Elvis Festival line-up unveiled at Porthcawl**

**NOW in its sixth year, the Porthcawl Elvis Festival is the biggest event of its kind in Europe.**

Every year, tens of thousands of Elvis fans descend on the seaside town and this year's event takes place from September 25-28. (Full details [www.elvies.co.uk](http://www.elvies.co.uk))

The feature event is The Elvies Award Show for Elvis Tribute Artists (ETAs). Categories include The Gold Lamé Jacket, Best Gospel Elvis, Best Movie Elvis, Best '68 Special Elvis and Best Vegas.

Guest star this year is Joseph Hall, a finalist from America's Got Talent. Other official shows at The Grand Pavilion include The Irish Masters, Elvis at the Movies, The Gospel Show and Trilogy.

In addition, the festival hosts one of the leading competitions for ETAs.

At The Hi Tide, there will be more than 100 shows in four bars, featuring 50 leading ETAs. The venue has also extended the festival to four days, with The Elvis Farewell Breakfast on the Monday Morning.

The Fringe Festival includes another 20 venues around the town, along with a five-a-side Elvis football match on the beach, and a Priscilla beauty pageant on the Promenade.

Charles Stone, Elvis' former tour producer, will be launching his biography at the festival.

This year, the festival will also be launching the search for Britain's most devoted Elvis couple, who will renew their vows at a ceremony on the seafront conducted by Rev Steve Caprice, an ordained minister.

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# From Northants with love – Porthcawl's new lifeboat



ABOVE: The new lifeboat, *Rose of the Shires*.

THE volunteer crew at Porthcawl have welcomed the new 'B' class, Atlantic 85 inshore lifeboat *Rose of the Shires*. She is a new, modern inshore lifeboat, larger and faster than her predecessor, the Atlantic 75.

The new £160,000 lifeboat was paid for by a fundraising appeal which was run in Northamptonshire, backed by local people and RNLI fundraising branches alike. Porthcawl's original Atlantic 75, Giles, was funded by the legacy of late cartoonist Ronald Carl Giles. It was retired in March this year after 13 years at Porthcawl, clocking up an impressive record of 507 launches, 475 people rescued, 117 of which were lives saved.

Two Bronze Medal services were also awarded to the volunteer crew for services on board Giles – in 2002 and 2004. Since March, the Atlantic 75, Walters Lifeboat had been on station at Porthcawl while the new RNLI lifeboat was being built.

Porthcawl RNLI Lifeboat Operations Manager Phil Missen said: "The volunteer RNLI crew are looking forward to getting to know their new lifeboat; each member of the crew will be trained through the week and assessed in their seamanship skills with the new boat by RNLI staff. Once this has been completed to the required RNLI standards, *Rose of the Shires* will be officially placed on service."

Compared with her predecessor, the new lifeboat's features include more powerful engines, giving

improved performance and a higher top speed of 35 knots, upgraded navigation equipment which includes radar, VHF direction finder and provision for a fourth crew member.

The Atlantic 85, at 8.5 metres long, has more survivor space too and is capable of being launched operationally up to force-7 in daylight and at night to force-6 conditions.

Mr Missen added:

"We were, of course sad to see Giles go. She had given sterling service at Porthcawl."

Those rescued or assisted by the retiring RNLI lifeboat have included fishermen, canoeists, dinghy sailors, jet-skiers, surfers, windsurfers, swimmers, occupants of inflatable dinghies, casualties fallen from cliffs, lost children, people marooned by the tide, and medical emergencies on boats off shore.

17, Headway Bridgend acting joint secretary Ricki James, Headway member Richard Collins, Maesteg Neighbourhood PC Dai Rees and Caerau PCSOs Karl Smith and Kim Harris, joined forces to deliver two cycle safety presentations to infants and juniors at Nantyffyllon Primary.

The theme for this year's awareness campaign was 'Use your Head, Wear a Helmet', so

during the talks pupils completed exercises using eggs to demonstrate the importance of wearing a helmet.

The children also donned their favourite hats to support the 'Hats for Headway' fundraising day and presented a cheque of £50 to Ricki James for their efforts.

Headway is a charity dedicated to helping survivors of brain injuries, and aims to raise aware-

ness of brain injury and its consequences.

Ricki James said: "At Headway, we believe it should be compulsory for children to wear cycle helmets. Wearing a cycle helmet can save lives and reduce the risk of sustaining a life-changing injury, so it's vital that children are made aware of their importance."

During the talks, PCSO Karl Smith also used a police mountain

bike to emphasise the different components of a bike needed to ride safely.

He drew comparisons between his high-visibility reflective clothing and Mr Collins' dark suit to stress that pupils need to make themselves seen when out and about on the roads, and that a helmet is one of the most important safety accessories.

Headway member Richard Collins said: "I'm pleased the talks have been so well-received by the children. This partnership effort between Headway and South Wales Police has really helped to drive the message forward, and I hope more of the children will protect themselves with helmets here after."

A POPULAR youth club, 'Brackla Live', which is organised by South Wales Police PCSOs Kerry Davies and Richard Matthews, will be held again tomorrow (Friday) May 22, from 6pm-8pm.

Designed for eight-15 year olds, the club will offer an evening of fun and games, including the chance to listen and dance to music or play the Nintendo WII, Playstation or Singstar. A tuck shop is also available.

Representatives from South Wales Police, Communities First and Bridgend County Youth Service will be

on hand all evening to supervise.

Bridgend company 'Grahams Minibus' will be picking children up from three stops around Brackla free of charge to take them to the club.

The first will be at 5.40pm from the Welsh school near Brackla Meadows, then 5.50pm outside the Spar on Brackla Way, then 5.55pm from the Triangle shopping precinct. The children will be dropped back to the same bus stops when the club ends.

Brackla PCSO Kerry Davies said: "We're confident that this week's club will be as fun for the children as the first one."

## Council to look at GI memorial idea

A REQUEST to place a memorial in Porthcawl to American GIs stationed there (before taking part in the D-Day invasion of Normandy) is to be looked into.

Coun David Newton-Williams told Porthcawl Town Council that the request for a memorial has been made by John Head of Essex, who was evacuated to Porthcawl during the war and remembers the US soldiers in the town.

He has already had a letter published in The GEM on this issue.

Coun Newton Williams asked for the issue to be deferred until he could consult with colleagues in the Royal British Legion.

He said that the British Reconnaissance forces, known as the Polar Bears, had placed all their records and memorabilia into the Porthcawl Museum, and there was a plaque to them on Esplanade House. Their unit was formed in Porthcawl especially for the war.

He said: "It is right

that we honour the memory of these people who gave their lives.

"I am very conscious

## Fence dispute still drags on

THE vexed question of the missing fence at Nottage Forge has again been raised at Porthcawl Town Council.

Coun Barbara Stubbs reminded members that the town council had written to Bridgend County Borough Council last August, asking their property department to replace a boundary fence by Nottage Forge which had been removed by their workmen some years ago when the shelter was replaced.

Coun Stubbs said that promises were made to the owner of Nottage Forge that the fence would be replaced, but nothing has been done.

She said that the town council had received no satisfaction on this matter.

She continued: "The

removal of this fence has resulted in increased fly tipping and vandalism, which has affected the forge.

"The business is now owned by the nephew-in-law of the previous owner, and there are still problems there.

"We should write again and ask the council if it intends to replace the fence in the near future. It is a health and safety issue."

Coun Alana Davies said that the borough council had responded to point out that they were not responsible, and that it was up to the private owner.

Clerk Ceri Anderson said that the council had now received a further reply stating they would look into it.

It was agreed to ask Coun Rosemary Deere, who represents the area on the borough council, to investigate.

## ST JOHN'S PUPILS LEARN ABOUT 'TOTAL FOOTBALL'

A GROUP from a Dutch School visited St John's School, Porthcawl, and took part in football and rounders matches with some senior pupils.

After the games, tea and cakes were served and pupils from both schools did their best to communicate with each other.

A school spokeswoman said: "Goes Lyceum visit St John's each year and a worthwhile international relationship has been formed.

"Pupils enjoy the experience of meeting peers their own age from a different country and expanding their knowledge of another culture and language."



ABOVE: Pupils from each school having a break between matches.

## Councillor's James Cagney impression!

THE day the leader of Bridgend Town Council came face to face with a rat – of the four-legged variety – was described in vivid detail to councillors.

Coun David Unwin said he was walking up Station Hill towards the railway station when he saw a rat in the bushes alongside him at the same level as his head.

He said: "I was eye to eye with him.

"This land is owned by Network Rail and it is very overgrown and infested with rats."

He said that the

embankment at the end of Derwen Road was also smothered in debris as well as being overgrown.

He insisted: "They must do something about this whole area.

"The track leading from the station back towards Cardiff is strewn with litter for 300 yards, and it gives a very bad impression to visitors arriving in Bridgend by train.

"This needs to be done immediately."

Coun Bob Burns said he wished to congratulate Coun Unwin on his rodent stand-off, and said he had obviously come off best.

## PCSOs run Brackla youth club evening

A POPULAR youth club, 'Brackla Live', which is organised by South Wales Police PCSOs Kerry Davies and Richard Matthews, will be held again tomorrow (Friday) May 22, from 6pm-8pm.

Designed for eight-15 year olds, the club will offer an evening of fun and games, including the chance to listen and dance to music or play the Nintendo WII, Playstation or Singstar. A tuck shop is also available.

Representatives from South Wales Police, Communities First and Bridgend County Youth Service will be

## Pupils learn to cycle in safety

MORE than 200 children from Nantyffyllon Primary School joined Headway, the brain injury association, and South Wales Police to learn about the importance of cycle helmets.

As part of the 'Action for Brain Injury' week, which ran from May 11-

during the talks pupils completed exercises using eggs to demonstrate the importance of wearing a helmet.

The children also donned their favourite hats to support the 'Hats for Headway' fundraising day and presented a cheque of £50 to Ricki James for their efforts.

Headway is a charity dedicated to helping survivors of brain injuries, and aims to raise awareness of brain injury and its consequences.

Ricki James said: "At Headway, we believe it should be compulsory for children to wear cycle helmets. Wearing a cycle helmet can save lives and reduce the risk of sustaining a life-changing injury, so it's vital that children are made aware of their importance."

During the talks, PCSO Karl Smith also used a police mountain



LEFT: The team with Nantyffyllon junior school pupils.

# Poppy Appeal sends out urgent call for help in Kenfig Hill

THE Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal is on a recruitment drive in Kenfig Hill to give people who are out of work, perhaps due to the current recession, the opportunity to volunteer as a Poppy Appeal organiser or collector for the Kenfig Hill Poppy Appeal.

It is my hope that anyone looking for work or with some spare time, will see that volunteering for the Poppy Appeal will not only help the Poppy Appeal in Kenfig Hill grow – but enhance their curriculum vitae, by showing compassion and commitment to British men and women who have served in conflicts past and present.

Mr Ron Clarke (73), a resident of Monks Close and originally from Gilfach Goch, has been doing the Poppy Appeal for the last five years.

Ron remembers the days when there were 12 other poppy sellers to help him. Sadly, due to old age these numbers have dwindled and there is now no one in the area to volunteer.

Ron states: "I have loved every minute I've volunteered for the Poppy Appeal and I will be sad to resign. I hope that there are many who will read this, come forward and continue that work to give the people of Kenfig a chance to remember the fallen and to donate to the appeal."

The network of existing Poppy Appeal volunteers in the Vale of Glamorgan is also unfortunately decreasing and we are looking for young people to come forward and volunteer to become a Poppy Appeal organiser, counter, driver or poppy seller.

Poppy Appeal organisers would use existing poppy sellers and co-ordinate the delivery of poppies to local schools, churches and places of work during the two week remembrance period in November.

The British Legion is only allowed to street collect for two weeks of the year and without an organiser in post, we will not be able to make the most of our fundraising opportunity.

The Royal British Legion provides social, financial and emotional assistance to members of the serving and ex-service community in your area.

Last year, Wales helped more than 2,500 people and spent more than £1.3 million doing so. With current conflicts set to continue, and British Armed Forces coming home from Iraq, our workload will increase, so we need your help right now to raise the money we need to be able to continue the work we do.

If you can help in any way, call Ruth Henley on 07827 230619 or email: [rhenley@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:rhenley@britishlegion.org.uk).

## The GEM has more news!

THE GEM has launched a 'live' on-line digital edition of its weekly printed titles.

Despite printing and distributing more than 44,000 copies every week, we have constant requests to increase copies beyond the Vale of Glamorgan, Bridgend and Porthcawl.

In response, The GEM has made a major investment by developing its website into a digital version, using state-of-the-art technology.

Previously we have been pleased to reach readers from Penarth to Porthcawl; now we can proudly say that we are available to anyone who has a computer from:

**Bridgend – Brisbane**  
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**Cowbridge – Canada**  
**Llantwit – Lapland**  
**Porthcawl – Penang**

So if you have family or friends living outside our current distribution area – drop them an email and let them know that they can catch all the latest news and events in a completely digital on-line edition!

View the latest edition now at:

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Advertisers will soon be able to take advantage of flash animation services, web-linking and much more.

by RUTH HENLEY  
 Community fundraiser

If you or a member of your family are currently serving or a member of the ex-Service community and believe the Legion may be able to assist you, contact Alice Evans, county manager assistant and volunteer caseworker on 02920 230216.

## Members model colourful saris

### NOTTAGE WI NEWS

**S**INCE the last meeting in April branch, members have been busy; they enjoyed the spring group meeting at A wel-y-Mor, with a talk and demonstration by Mrs Shikha Ghose on the sari, using members as models.

On April 28, members joined Sker and Newton WIs at the spring council meeting in Brangwyn Hall, Swansea, which was attended by 799 members from 87 institutes.

The speakers included Robert Croydon of the Prince's Foundation. A representative from Taylors of Harrogate spoke about the Rain Forest Project. The main speaker was Sara Edwards, who gave a very interesting talk on her career in television and radio.

The Friday night hop on May 8, at North Cornelly, had a very good turn-out; it was a good evening with most members joining in the dances.

The monthly meeting was held on May 7, in the schoolroom of the Unitarian Chapel in Nottage. President Ann Vipond welcomed the members, who discussed at length the WI resolution concerning bee health.

Members went on to discuss ideas for outings to places of interest during the summer months.

There then followed a bring and buy sale to raise money for funds.

Since the monthly meeting, a beetle drive was held on May 12, when the branch welcomed members from Sker WI.

It is proposed to hold a coffee morning on Wednesday, June 24, at 10.30am in the schoolroom of the Unitarian Chapel.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 7pm in the schoolroom (Unitarian Chapel). Visitors and new members welcome.

AV

## When the bees go, the world goes as well!

### MYNYDD CYNNFIG WI NEWS

**A**T the May meeting held in the vestry of Pisgah Chapel, Kenfig Hill, vice-president, Chris David, was in the chair.

The resolution to be put forward at the National Federation of Women's Institute AGM in June was discussed and voted upon.

Members all agreed of the importance of urging the Government to provide adequate funds to research the virus that is infecting bees, and killing honey bees here and in the rest of the world.

WI Life, the national magazine of the federation, reported that the UK had 250 species of bees but three of these have already become nationally extinct.

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# BO-PEEP STEALS THE SHOW AT YFC RALLY!

THE Glamorgan Federation of Young Farmers Clubs, rally held at Pencoed recently, again had something for all the members – with a mixture of skills, crafts, talent and fun competitions.

One of the highlights was 'One Dame and her sheep'. Each team had to field a pantomime-type 'Bo-Peep' who had to whistle a blind-folded 'sheep' on all fours round an assault course.

There was so much hilarity that some of the 'dames' found it difficult to 'whistle' their commands!

Photos by Heather March



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# 'Cruel' father who horse-whipped his children is jailed for 27 months

A STRICT father has been jailed for 27 months at Cardiff Crown Court for horse-whipping his three young children to "stop them going off the rails".

The man admitted using his riding crop on the children, aged between seven and 12, to make them behave.

The father, aged 52, denied it was cruelty - claiming he had whipped them "for their own good".

But a judge branded him a cruel and controlling bully whose behaviour towards his children was "unspeakable".

The father hit his children if they were late for a meal, were slow in coming home after playing outside, or even if they held a salt cellar wrongly.

Prosecutor Martyn Kelly said police were alerted to the father's cruelty after one of his children rang them.

Officers found two children so terrified when they arrived that

they clung to the police and begged them not to leave them.

The three children gave evidence against their father at Cardiff Crown Court over a video link.

One child told the court they would be hit with the riding crop if they disobeyed his orders.

She said: "He would say go and get ready for bed and if we began walking very slowly to get ready then he would hit you with the horsewhip".

His youngest child said: "If I wouldn't get ready for bed, dad hit me on the hand with the horsewhip quite hard. It made me feel sad".

One said when his father hit him it felt like his hand "was on fire" and always left a mark.

The children said they would regularly hide the 70-year-old riding crop from their father to avoid his punishments.

The court heard how their father, a qualified engineer, was very religious and had taken a four-year university

degree course in divinity.

The father said: "I used it as a deterrent. I'm trying to instill discipline into the children. I don't wish for them to go off the rails.

"I'm actively trying to be a good father, to bring them up knowing right and wrong.

"I'm trying to instill discipline but children don't like that - they like to run free from parental control.

"The riding crop is a deterrent. It would be used only on the palm of the hand, never to cause injury. I don't hit them hard, I am extremely careful.

"I've never used it when I've lost my temper or when I've been angry or enraged."

His lawyer, Eugene Egan, said: "He acknowledges that in 2009 it is not legitimate or acceptable to use a riding crop to discipline children."

The father, from the Vale, was also found guilty of twice assaulting his partner, the children's mother, who was

20 years younger than him.

Judge Stephen Hopkins QC jailed the father for a total of 27 months - 18 months for the assaults and nine months for the cruelty offences.

He told him: "Your behaviour towards your children was unspeakable and you are a cruel and controlling bully.

"The fact that you consider it appropriate to hit children with a riding crop, albeit on the hand, demonstrates you are a cruel man."

## 'GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE UNDER-ESTIMATED COST OF SEVERN BARRAGE' CLAIMS AM

REGIONAL AM Alun Cairns has expressed concern about the findings of a study into the proposed Severn Barrage which has revealed flaws in government plans.

The study was commissioned by an alliance of environmental organisations, including the RSPB, The National Trust, The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, the World Wildlife Fund, the Wye and Usk Foundation plus the Anglers Trust.

Respected engineers WS Atkins were asked to look at the short-listed proposals, and they have found that these schemes are based on out-of-date calculations.

"The report found that the government is using 30-year-old calculations for power generation," he said.

"More worryingly, the report claims that the government may have seriously under-estimated the cost of the Cardiff-Weston barrage, which would also be very environmentally damaging.

"There are also concerns that environmental considerations have been given too little weight and that other less environmentally damaging schemes to generate electricity have been overlooked."

Mr Cairns said that the organisations involved were all highly respected with reputations to protect.

"We must sit up and take notice when groups like these put their names to a report," he said. "They are calling for the government to carry out a second study and I would support that.

"There's a serious danger that the government will make the wrong choice and we simply cannot afford to get this wrong. Too much is at stake.

"I would prefer to see more research carried out into every aspect of these alternative schemes including their environmental impact and their true cost. Other alternatives that have been ruled out must be re-examined. Only then can a sensible and rational decision be made," he added.

### VALE PACT MEETINGS:

RHOOSE PACT, Celtic Way Community Centre, Tuesday, May 26, 7pm.  
SULLY PACT, Jubilee Hall, Monday, June 1, 8pm.  
GIBBONSDOWN PACT, Communities First Office, Tuesday, June 2, 7pm.  
CADOC PACT, Palmerstone Community Learning Centre, Wednesday, June 3, 7pm.  
ST ATHAN PACT, The Gathering Place, Wednesday, June 3, 7.30pm.  
ST BRIDES PACT, St Brides Church hall, Wednesday, June 3, 6pm.  
CORNERSWELL PACT, Cogan Leisure Centre, July 2, 7pm.  
If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting, log onto [www.ourbobby.com](http://www.ourbobby.com).

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# Can you offer a loving home to best friends Riley and Shimba?

**The GEM has joined forces with the Dog's Trust to find caring new owners for animals at its Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)**

THIS WEEK, the Dogs Trust puts out a special appeal to keep two inseparable pals together in a loving new home.

Linda Feagan of the Rehoming Centre explained: "Riley and Shimba are a beautiful pair who we are hoping to rehome together.

"Riley, a one-year-old lurcher, is a worried little boy, who benefits greatly from living with another, well-adjusted dog – that is where Shimba, a two-year-old greyhound comes in.

"She is a sweet dog with loads of personality; she is very outgoing, and a little cheeky with it!

"She needs a little more basic training, which will also help build up Riley's social skills. They will make a great pair in the right home."

If you would like more information on Riley and Shimba, or any of the other dogs who are looking for

a good home, visit the Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre in Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend, or phone 01656 725219.

Riley, Shimba and some of their friends are on the website at [www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk) (click on Rehoming).



ABOVE: Riley and Shimba want to stay together if possible.

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## MP backs increase in minimum wage

VALE MP, John Smith, welcomed the Government's decision to increase the national minimum wage as good news for low-paid workers in the Vale.

From October, the minimum wage for workers over 22 years old will increase from £5.73 an hour to £5.80, and from £4.77 to £4.83 for 18 to 21 year olds; and for 16-17 year olds it will go up from £3.53 to £3.57 an hour.

Mr Smith said: "I got involved in politics to fight for workers' rights. That's why I welcome this increase in the national minimum wage which will benefit many workers here in the Vale."

## Ambulance queues probe is welcomed

NEWS that the audit committee at the Assembly is to investigate why ambulances are being forced to queue outside accident and emergency departments at hospitals, has been welcomed by Alun Cairns AM.

Mr Cairns said that South East Wales ambulances boss Grant Gordon has spelled out the reasons in his meeting with members of Cowbridge Town Council.

"He said in no uncertain terms that ambulances were unable to discharge patients at hospitals because there are no beds available for them to go into."

Mr Gordon was reported in The GEM as stating that he has had up to seven of his ambulances tied up outside one hospital at the same time because staff can't hand their patients over.

Mr Cairns, who is also Tory parliamentary candidate for the Vale, added: "Patients are still waiting on trolleys in corridors for hours while bed managers run around trying to free up beds by sending people home."

"Of course, not all of this can be blamed onto delays at casualty departments and there are other factors in the equation."

## Barnardo's SOS for foster carers

BARNARDO'S Cymru has sent out an urgent appeal for local foster carers.

"Last year there were more than 4,500 looked-after children in Wales, and three quarters were in foster care. It is estimated that at least 750 new foster carers will be needed over the next year," said Barnardo's manager Merrill Roberts.

Barnardo's is looking for foster homes for older children who have emotional or behavioural difficulties; for disabled children with learning difficulties; and for 'ready-made' families of brothers and sisters who need to be fostered together.

For more information, contact 029 2049 3387 or log onto our website [www.barnardos.org.uk](http://www.barnardos.org.uk).

## MORE WOMEN SEEK VITAL CERVICAL SMEAR TESTS

THERE has been a huge increase in the number of women asking for cervical smear tests in the wake of Jade Goody's death.

A spokesman for the Joint Cervical Screening Programme stated that women in Bridgend and the Vale had been coming forward for these tests in record numbers.

Doctor's surgeries and clinics across the area have all reported a surge in demand. One practice has had to put on an extra weekly clinic and another is running six extra clinics a month.

Another surgery has reported a doubling of smear tests between January and April compared to last year.

One clinic saw the number increase from 31 in March last year to 97 in March this year – a trebling of the figures.

The number of women failing to turn up for these tests has also plummeted and some clinics are reporting a 90 per cent drop in these figures.

The unprecedented demand has meant that some women may have had to wait to get an appointment because,

despite extra clinics, demand has outstripped supply.

Health authorities are urging women who are unable to keep their appointment to ring in, even if it's on the day, so that the slot can be given to someone else.

Women who are on a three-year recall should wait for their invitation letter, rather than try to go early – unless they have symptoms they are concerned about, in which case they should see their GP.

Laboratory staff are working flat out but are hitting their targets and women are able to get their results within four to six weeks.

Jeremy Gasson, who is the clinical director for Women and Child Health at the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Trust and who is a consultant gynaecologist, said that Jade Goody's death had brought the screening programme to the forefront of people's minds.

"That is a very good thing to come out of a sad situation," he commented.

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# CHURCH ORGAN FUND IS BOOSTED AT NASH MANOR



ABOVE: Guests were able to enjoy a stroll in the garden.



ABOVE: Jenny Williams (centre) with members of the hard working committee.

Report and photographs by HEATHER MARCH



A LINK with the Eric and Jenny distant past was made recently when the committee of the Llandaff Cathedral organ fund came to the Vale to hold a fundraising supper at Nash Manor, the beautiful home of Osmund's Ash.

Chairman Jeffrey Morgan explained that it is documented that Nash was the position of one of the summer extra parochial residences of the Bishop of Llandaff in medieval times. It was called Osmund's Ash.

The remains of the Chapel of St Osmund was destroyed in 1963, when new houses were built in the grounds of the Manor.

The cathedral is working hard to raise money to build a replacement organ, and this delightful event was one of many functions taking place.

For details of other events, call the Cathedral Office on 02920 564554.



ABOVE: A delicious supper provided by the hard working team.

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NEW ARCHDEACON THE licensing service for the Venerable Peggy Jackson will be at Saint Cadoc's, Llancarfan, on Monday, June 1, at 7.30pm, and will be followed by a reception at the village hall.

### IRISH NIGHT

THERE will be an Irish Night at the village hall in Llancarfan, on Saturday, May 30, starting at 7.30pm, featuring a traditional Irish supper and music from Colum Regan with, of course, a well-stocked bar.

This has been organised by members of the village bookclub. All proceeds will go towards the Wall Paintings appeal.

There will be a display of dancing by the Michelle O'Donnell School of Irish dancing in Cardiff and a bar and raffle will be available.

These nights have proved to be most popular in the past, so book your tickets early.

Tickets are £12.50 and are available from Joann Scott-Quelch



COMMUNITY NEWS  
LLANBETHERY & LLANCARFAN  
Your community correspondents are Sam & Patsie Smith on (01446) 751448

starting at 1.30pm. Entry is £1 per head with teams of three. It will be your own drink' day.

### WHIST DRIVE

THE next Llancarfan Society Whist Drive will be on Tuesday, May 26, at 7.30pm, in the hall. Admission as usual is £1.

### PENTECOST

ZOAR Presbyterian Church, Bonvilston is inviting worshippers to spend a few minutes in prayer and meditation on Pentecost Sunday (May 30).

A church spokeswoman said: "The church will be open between 2pm-3.30pm for a chance to pray, think, reflect – a chance to be silent before God, and our minister Rev Adelaide will also be available."

Further information from the church secretary on 01446 781309.

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## County borough students collect Duke of Edinburgh awards

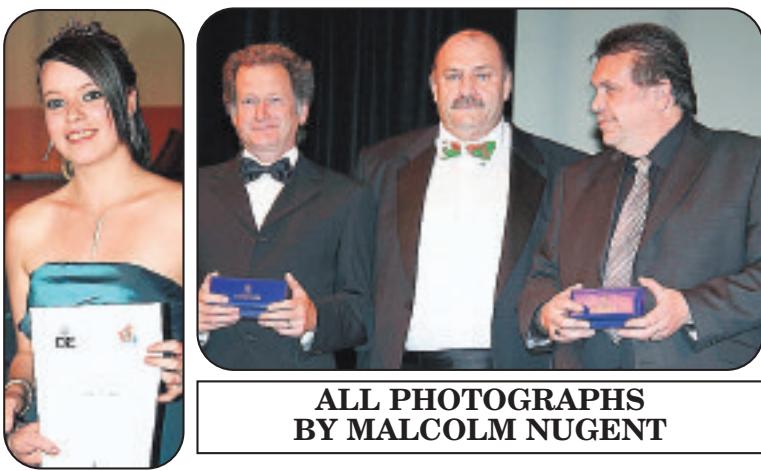
AS was reported in last week's GEM, young people from around the county borough of Bridgend were feted at the Grand Pavilion after completing their Duke of Edinburgh award scheme programmes.

There were more than 400 successful participants, receiving their bronze, silver or gold certificates.

For the girls, in particular, it was a chance to step out in their most glamorous ball gowns, and the event shows that there are plenty of young people in the borough with a taste for adventure and the dedication to carry through a demanding series of tasks!



Among school pupils receiving awards were St Clare's (above) with bronze, and Ynysawdre (above left) also bronze. Pupils from Ynysawdre who achieved the silver level are pictured (right).



There were dozens of smiling faces all night as the young people reflected on their success in tackling the demanding tasks required to achieve success in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.

**ALL PHOTOGRAPHS  
BY MALCOLM NUGENT**

## 'Public apology is called for'

**I** WAS somewhat disturbed to see an article in The GEM headlined 'Vale MP backs campaign to allow Gurkha soldiers to settle in the UK' – and a picture of John Smith with a delegation of Gurkha soldiers.

The MP had signed a parliamentary Early Day Motion to bring forward a new ruling on the rights of former Gurkha soldiers to settle in the UK. He went on to say that Gurkhas have been campaigning for equal treatment with other Commonwealth soldiers – "it is a matter of principle".

Well, can the MP please explain that when the Gurkha Settlement Rights came before the House of Commons on April 29 and the Government was defeated in an opposition day motion, why he voted against it? Why he did not support the Gurkhas?

After the Government's defeat, we then see him rushing out to sign this Early Day Motion. I bet the soldiers in the photo were not aware that he had voted against them.

Does the MP not realise that in an age where many homes now have internet access, we would be able to check on how MPs vote on issues?

I am very disappointed in our MP and think that he should make a public apology to those brave men.

Coun Russell Downe, Llantwit Major

## 'Can we know truth, please?'

**O**N page 7 of the May 7 edition of The GEM, you have a letter from Alun Cairns AM, reporting that John Smith MP voted with the Government against the Gurkha soldiers' UK settlement rights in the House of Commons.

On the same page, you show a photo of Mr Smith with a headline saying that he was at a rally showing that he was backing a campaign to allow Gurkha soldiers to settle in the UK.

Can we know the truth, please?  
Stan Griffiths, Barry

## Credit where credit is due

**S**INCE we are quick to criticise local public sector departments for their shortcomings, when services do meet our needs due credit should be given and made known.

While it may have been co-incidental with actions taken by others, within five days of my advising the Vale Highways department by e-mail of two large and deepening holes in the road on entering Colwinston and towards the A48, acknowledgement had been received, the holes in question 'yellow-lined' and filled!

Certainly, the lanes in the Vale are in continuous need of attention, however, such an immediate response shows recognition of the need to fix such one-off problems as they arise.

Equally, users of the recycling site at Llandow will have noticed since the change in contractor more than a

## ...and now to the question of councillors' expenses

**I**N view of the current economic climate in the country, can we now expect our local councillors to produce their expenses receipts for our perusal?

Marjorie Voaden, Rhoose

Thank you for saying you saw it in The GEM

## THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

# Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters should include an address and contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

## Gurkhas' rights and Vale MP

**T**HE GEM'S postbag has been dominated by letters on the Gurkhas' controversy. Here is a further selection.

**I**SUSPECT that I am not alone in being surprised at the report in The GEM entitled 'Vale MP backs campaign to allow the Gurkha soldiers to settle in UK'.

From the title and content of the report, in which he stated: "This is a matter of principle", I would have assumed that Mr Smith had voted against the Government and in support of the Gurkhas on April 29.

However, a check of the House of Commons voting records reveals the opposite – and that he voted to oppose the Gurkha Settlement Rights motion.

Mr Smith seems to base his claim on his having signed an Early Day Motion (1362). EDMs are little more than petitions, rarely debated in the House and in parliamentary terms virtually never have any direct consequence.

### 'Outrageous to pretend otherwise'

**I**REFER to last week's article relating to MP John Smith's supposed support for the Gurkhas and am writing to protest at breathtaking hypocrisy.

Far from supporting the campaign to allow Gurkhas to settle, on April 29 Mr Smith voted against the motion to extend an equal right of residence to all Gurkhas.

It is outrageous and deceitful of him to pretend otherwise.

R Caple, Porthcawl

## A case of too little, too late, Mr Cairns!

**I**REFER to the scandal of MPs' expenses which has raged over the past week.

During this period, I expect that many readers have missed an announcement regarding Alun Cairns AM, who will be standing in the Vale of Glamorgan for the parliamentary seat next year.

During last week, I was pleased to read that Mr Cairns will not claim in the region of £12,000 for his second home in future, which of course he has done in the past – living in Ewenny, of course, is so far away from Cardiff Bay.

I wonder if this has anything to do with the fact that the election is not far away, and he wants to remind the electorate what a good man he really is.

Gwyn John, Llantwit Major

## A warning from the past about the BNP of today

**I**AM sure many of your readers will share my utmost revulsion at the way the latest BNP piece of propaganda arrogantly uses the spirit of The Battle of Britain, including the heroic battles of Dunkirk and D-Day, to promote their extreme right wing views.

But the truth tells a very different story. The hundreds of thousands of British people who gave their lives during the

Second World War were fighting the same fascist and extreme right wing views currently put forward by the BNP.

They died so that Britain would remain a democratic and tolerant society, free from the politics of hate and victimisation.

After reading their leaflets, just replace the words "flood of immigrants into Britain" (BNP) with "living space for the German people" (Adolf Hitler) and "asylum seekers" with the word "Jew" and suddenly you are transported back to the dark days of the 1930s and

On June 4, vote anything but the BNP... choose hope not hate!

Rob Curtis  
(Vale Labour councillor)

## MP and Bravest of the Brave

**T**HERE is little doubt that the article and photograph relating to the rights of residency for Gurkha Soldiers in The GEM tells us far more about John Smith MP, than did his wrap-around puff piece some two weeks ago.

The Honourable Member for the Vale of Glamorgan would have us believe he is fully supporting 'The Bravest of the Brave' while he

and all the other Welsh Labour Members, with the exception of Julie Morgan, trotted meekly into the Government Lobby in a bid to deny them the very rights he purports they should have.

Does he think that the electorate of the Vale are sufficiently foolish to be taken in – probably yes.

Are there no depths to which he will not stoop in courting popularity? On current form, it is unlikely.

James R Bevan, Flemingstone (Gurkha Welfare Trust Supporter)

## Vale MP's 'blatant inconsistency'

**V**ALE MP backs campaign to allow Gurkha soldiers to settle in UK – please ask John Smith MP why he signed a parliamentary Early Day Motion on the new ruling on the rights of former Gurkha soldiers, when his voting record shows that he voted 'NO' on April 29 to their settlement rights.

This is outrageous. I hope people come to see and hear of this blatant inconsistency.

Gillian Bruce, Barry

## Internet truths

**I**N his letter to The GEM on May 7, FMD Knill of Pendoylan states that John Smith MP is

supporting the Gurkhas in their campaign for equal treatment which would entitle them to settle in the UK, and then votes against them in the Commons vote?

How can we believe anything that he says in the future? Time to go, Mr Smith. Goodbye!

Dianne Nicholls, Peterston-super-Ely

## Explanation call

**H**OW come that John Smith MP is supporting the Gurkhas after voting with the Government in opposing the Gurkha settlement rights?

How hypocritical can one be? Will he give The GEM another interview to explain?

Leri Trivett, St Brides Super Ely

This is, in fact, true. I

have checked and he did

vote to keep the Gurkhas out of the UK. Not only did he vote for this, he also voted in favour of stopping the people he represents having the promised referendum on the Lisbon Treaty.

Anthony Evans, Llantwit Major

LLANTWIT MAYOR HAS PICKED UP TORY TRICKS

ties, there is no party

whip to follow and in

this case, the

Conservatives enforced

the whip, as I was led to

believe by one of their members.

Nevertheless, it still comes back to the issue of nominations and quite simply, the Conservatives nominated Coun Downe; if they had not done this there would have been only

one nomination, that of Coun Matthews.

Of course, Coun Downe has spent the last 12 months pestering members of Llantwit First Independents for support, in his attempt to split our group he obviously has picked up the Tories' dirty tricks.

Coun Gwyn John

(Llantwit First Independent)

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# Porthcawl pupils delve into the past

## PORTHCAWL

Comprehensive pupils are entering the National Heritage Awards 2009, after a successful first outing last year.

A pupil reported: "After the success of our National Heritage Award project in 2008, where we took second place earning the school £1,000, we have just completed our second entry entitled 'Warfare to Welfare 1939-1959'.

"Around 15 pupils are involved and we are researching with the community. As part of this project, we have carried out questionnaires in local areas, including three hours in John Street one rainy Saturday morning.

"We visited the Masonic residential home, the local library and had local residents such as John David from Porthcawl Museum visit the school."

The pupils have produced two digital stories based on the artefacts and testimonies of local residents, two displays – one in the history department and the other in the local library – a school website giving information about their research, achievements and clips from the lessons and one of the digital stories.

This can be accessed through Porthcawl Comprehensive School's home page and clicking on the his-

tory department.

The pupil continued: "In January, we went to visit the Masonic residential home. We saw five people who had experienced warfare to welfare in various areas of England and Wales, including Porthcawl. They gave us a taste of what it was like during the Second World War.

"They said that the war was like an adventure to them because they were only young. One lady was an evacuee and lost friends when a bomb hit a shelter.

"One man who was a driver in the army brought in his draft card to prove it.

"We also went to Porthcawl Library to look up some information about 'warfare to welfare'.

"Pupils have gained some fantastic skills throughout, including working with 'Apple Mac' technology, teaching a lesson to their peers and marking their work.

"We worked in partnership with Aberystwyth National Library of Wales, who came in to train pupils.

"We have also made some fantastic links with the community over the past two projects and would like to extend our special thanks to John David, who has made numerous journeys to the school."



ABOVE:

*The Porthcawl pupils involved in the project, with their history teachers. The judges from the Welsh Heritage Society, Mr Maddox and Mr Haines are on the left, and John David of Porthcawl Museum is back row (right).*

*Photograph by Malcolm Nugent.*

## Credit crunch leads to drop in planning applications

THE NUMBER of planning applications lodged with Bridgend County Borough Council has dropped by a quarter over the past year.

Last year, between January and April, the council received 485 applications but this year, for the same period, the figure had dropped to 358.

A spokesman said that the council had received 127 fewer applications and there was an assumption that the general economic downturn played a significant role in the drop. It is expected that the situation will change as and when the economy improves.

In response to questions from The GEM about whether this drop would result in job losses in the planning department, a spokesman said that the recommended benchmark nationally was for each development control officer to process 150 applications a year but during 2008, those employed by the council were handling an average of 200 each.

As a result of the drop, each officer is now handling the number close to recommended levels.

There has also been a re-organisation in the department with case officers also dealing with tree, compliance and enforcement cases as part of their workload.

## Maesteg pledge

**B R I D G E N D**  
County Borough Council has confirmed that it is still committed to upgrading Maesteg market and bus station as the final phase of the town centre regeneration.

Funding ran out before this work could start, but the council has said it is actively seeking new sources of funding for the project.

**READ A FULL DIGITAL VERSION OF THE GEM AT: WWW.BRIDGEND-TODAY.CO.UK**

## Local pupils get taste of the army in military 'parade'

MORE than 700 Bridgend pupils flocked to Margam Park last week to join 3,000 young people from south west Wales at the Army's biggest ever military education event.

Aimed at giving people an insight into Army life, Dragon's March welcomed 70 schools, as well as members of the public, to the event which included some of the Army's most impressive military vehicles, such as a 75-tonne Challenger II tank.

A spokeswoman reported that with each regiment in Wales holding their own interactive demonstration and range of activities, people had the chance to try their hand at important Army skills – including a ration pack

cookery display in a mobile field kitchen; first-aid with the Army medical services; an assault course; the opportunity to join the Army band; and even the chance to experience what the Parachute Regiment do in a specially-designed 'jump tower'.

Each day hosted a huge military display, with Army vehicles to demonstrate how an Army unit would clear an enemy zone.

Matthew Leatherbarrow (17), a student at Bridgend College, said: "I've really enjoyed today! It's been fun doing the Army activities, especially with the Army vehicles. I didn't realise how many regiments there are in the Army, and how many different jobs you can do."

Major Philip Rees said: "Dragon's March is our biggest event in the Army calendar and

this year was better than ever. Each regiment provided exciting activities for young people to take part in, and soldiers were on hand to answer any questions.

"The Army is not all about the infantry, although it is a vital part. There are more than 140 different jobs in the Army from chefs to nurses to engineers and mechanics, logistics and communications.

"There is even the Army band, if you enjoy music, as well as lots of opportunities to take part in sports. "Dragon's March is all about getting young people involved, having fun and learning a few new things along the way – whether that is about how an engine works or first-aid or whether it is about their strengths or how to work better as a team." he added.

"During the Whitsun

holidays, from 10 am (except on Bank Holiday Monday).

The centre is open to young people aged eight-plus, and is also open in the evenings from 5.30pm, with different times/nights for different age groups.

A KPC spokeswoman said: "KPC Youth offers a wide range of on-site activities, including a great outdoor skate park, bmx track, multi-sports court, adventure play area, fantastic Digitalab with internet access, music, arts/crafts, pool, table tennis and lots more!"

"During the Whitsun holidays the following

## Art gallery plan for Bridgend town house?

THE LAST lived-in house in Bridgend town centre may become an art gallery and cultural centre.

The old house at 5 Dunraven Place was the home of the late Martin Verity. It is now owned by Jeremy Thomas and is currently being refurbished.

At a meeting held with him and officers from Bridgend County

Borough Council, Bridgend Town Council's commercial regeneration committee

was told that the borough council envisaged a potential use of the building for cultural purposes – which is supported by Mr Thomas.

They have commissioned a feasibility study and business plan to set up an art gallery and coffee shop there.

This report has to go to the cabinet before the

scheme can proceed any further.

The town council welcomed the news, with members stating that there was an urgent need for such a centre in the town centre.

No funding avenues have been sought until the feasibility report is completed and town councillors said that the project must have strong management and good marketing if it was to succeed.

## 'Fund Bridgend College properly' demands AM

THE Welsh Liberal Democrat AM for South Wales West, Peter Black, has called on Labour and Plaid Cymru to take full responsibility for the cuts at Bridgend College that have seen A-Levels and 16 lecturing jobs axed.

He said: "Labour and Plaid Cymru have voted down opposition motions calling for fair funding for colleges; they have ignored the warnings of college principals about the implications of their

decisions, and they have failed to fairly distribute the extra money they did find.

"In the light of this, I find it quite hypocritical to see Labour AMs now lining up with students to fight these cuts as if they had nothing to do with them.

"If A-level courses are to be restored, then the Government needs to find more money so as to ensure that colleges such as Bridgend are properly funded. At a time of recession, we need to be investing in training and education not cutting it back."

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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



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## For Quasar, all roads lead to Barry Island

**Q**UASAR, Barry Island, opened in July 1992 and has been popular for generations of children in Barry and throughout the Vale.

Great for parties, there is also a Quasar club for nine to 16-year-olds.

There are events every school holiday, and more than 650 junior members!

The activities are popular with girls, boys and adults.

Since Cardiff Quasar closed, a lot of students and families travel by train to the Island from Cardiff, Merthyr, Aberdare and even further afield, to enjoy a game.



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When you buy one game you get one free  
**only with this voucher.**

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## Riverford Organic announces its latest 'veg hero' – rhubarb!

**G**ET back to basics, says Riverford Organic Vegetables, and eat the great British veg that

thrives in this country.

The award-winning farm has launched a campaign to champion the 'unsung heroes' of the vegetable world, giving

ing a boost to vegetables that are unusual, under-rated, tricky to use or hard to get hold of.

Now is the time to rekindle an affection for rhubarb. Despite being widely used in desserts, rhubarb is a vegetable; it's a member of the polygonaceae family and related to sorrel.

It was popular through most of the 1900s, but suffered along with many other of Britain's homegrown, traditional vegetables as supermarkets began to sell out-of-season fruit from around the world.

Rhubarb is easy to grow in Britain, as it enjoys cool climates and

suffers very few pests. It also packs a flavoursome punch at the table.

"If you want traditional, seasonal produce, you can't beat rhubarb at this time of year," says Chris Morruzi, who delivers Riverford boxes in the Port Talbot, Bridgend and Vale area. "Try a simple crumble served with plenty of custard – and later in the season, throw in a few handfuls of strawberries too."

"Or make the most of its vibrant colour by swirling stewed rhubarb through creamy yoghurt for a super-quick dessert.

"Rhubarb's sharpness also works beautifully with meat and fish, so there's no need to confine it to pudding. It stores well and will keep in the fridge for a week or more."

Riverford, the nation's favourite vegbox scheme, grows more than 100 varieties of good value, seasonal produce on its farms around the UK. For more tips on growing and cooking with the seasons, see the Riverford Farm Cook Book, published by Fourth Estate.

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**A**NDREW, The Computer Man, has been trading from his office in Barry for more than 13 years and has built a large and loyal customer base of home users and small businesses.

With half-term holi-

days and exams here again, PCs are more important than ever, so why not call an experienced professional for a health check or upgrade and, don't forget 'Backup!' – it's too late once it's gone!

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BARRY ISLAND

[WWW.BARRYISLANDQUASAR.COM](http://WWW.BARRYISLANDQUASAR.COM)

Please note: All players must be at least 7 years old.  
Minimum numbers required for a party is 8 players. Maximum is 20.  
Exclusive use of game is for 16 or more players.  
The number of people booked for is the number of people charged for on the day.  
Deposits are non refundable or transferable.

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**QUASAR**  
BARRY ISLAND

**MEMBERS SCHEME** - Pay £5 to become a member, then pay £5 every time you play.  
9 - 16 year old welcome.

**SATURDAY 10 am till 2pm • SUNDAY 10am till 2pm** Come on Saturday or Sunday or both!

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Play as many games as possible in four hours

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Get good fast!

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YOU WON'T HAVE TO LIFT A FINGER AS YOUR CHILD AND FRIENDS HAVE A FANTASTIC BIRTHDAY PARTY

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TRAINED IN LASER COMBAT

Barry Island Quasar, 5 Station Approach Road, Barry Island  
Vale of Glamorgan, Wales, CF62 5TH  
Tel 01446 421 611 - 9.00am - 9.00pm



# Children's Choices

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



## Arbuthnot Opticians – friendly, caring, trusted

OUR practice has been established in Barry for more than 70 years and is now one of the most modern, independent practices in the country – we are friendly, caring and trusted.

We offer good value, good quality and, above all, choice. We stock a wide range of designer frames – Gucci, Giorgio

Armani, Versace, Oakley, Miss Sixty, Jimmy Choo, Timberland, Prada, Rayban – to name but a few, all at competitive prices.

Arbuthnots want to make it easy for you to buy the glasses or contact lenses you want, because appearance is important. Ask for details of our easy payment schemes on direct debit.

We have a very large contact lens practice

and lots of experience. We are members of the British Contact Lens Association, regularly attending conferences to keep abreast of everything that's new.

It gives them the freedom to enjoy sports and leisure activities without glasses, and the children just love it!

If you would like to know more, ring us on 01446 735551 or visit our website [www.arbuthnotopticians.co.uk](http://www.arbuthnotopticians.co.uk)



## Kindermusik aim to help in your baby's continued development

NEW Kindermusik classes for babies from 0-18 months are just starting, so why not come and try a free class on Tuesdays or Fridays.

'Rhythm of My Day' is an eight-week course which will help you bring more rhythm and

routine to your baby's day, as well as help develop lasting learning skills.

Research shows the more you expose your baby to nursery rhymes and songs, the stronger those emerging language-learning skills will be.

I'll show you how, and tell you why, music can help your little one.

### music to her ears

#### The sound of musical learning in a Kindermusik classroom

- The world's leading music & movement programme for children aged newborn to 7 years.
- Promotes all aspects of child development
- Small, friendly classes - 12 per group with quality home materials & CDs



**Cowbridge & Ystradgyniad**  
Call Leonie Hain on 01446 775 048  
[www.hain.co.uk/kindermusik](http://www.hain.co.uk/kindermusik)  
Classes for 0-18 months; 18 months-3 years; 3-5 years; 5-7 years

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[www.cwbarry@cartridgeworld.co.uk](http://www.cwbarry@cartridgeworld.co.uk)

For a greener cartridge

## The Three Horseshoes – a 'stunning' family pub

THE Three Horseshoes, Moulton, is renowned in the area for being a popular family pub serving a delicious array of traditional home-cooked food with local Welsh produce.

Specialties include Welsh black beef, and there are Welsh wines and beers!

Don't forget – pen-

sioners' specials are available Monday-Friday lunchtimes.

Richard and Ian Peters, the owners, not ones for sitting still, are always looking for areas to improve. They are starting work on a chil-

dren's fort in the outside play area, which is due for completion in early June, and they are also erecting new swings.

Visit this stunning family pub this bank holiday. You won't be disappointed.

**THE THREE HORSESHOES**  
Moulton, Near Barry  
Tel. (01446) 710428



### Whitsun Bank Holiday & Half Term

Horrice's Playbarn for the children  
**FACE PAINTING**

**Bank Holiday Monday, Wednesday May 27th and Sunday May 31st**

#### JUNE OFFER

**Kids Eat Free**  
**Mondays and Wednesdays**  
**Conditions apply**

**Real food for real people!**  
**Served from 12 midday - 9 pm**

**SUNDAY LUNCH**  
**served from 12 midday**

## 'Festival of Clowns' is a great day out at Margam Park this bank holiday

POP along to Margam Country Park for bank holiday Monday, May 25, and enjoy all the family fun of the Festival of Clowns.

Learn some circus skills with Jimmy Juggles, join Mr Bubbles, Dr Bob and Loopy Lews for children's shows and have a chat to the Upside Down

Clown!

Why not dress up and enter the Best Dressed Clown competition (Judging at 2pm).

Margam Castle is also hosting a craft and gifts fair. It is a great family fun day out.

Set in 1,000 acres of glorious parklands, Margam Country Park offers beauty, history, wildlife and a wide range of facilities to make it one of the best days out in Wales for all

## Gymbabes – 'a fantastic introduction to the Tumble Tots programme'

Each Gymbabes session includes gentle warm-up exercises to help strengthen muscles, massage, and songs and rhymes to develop listening and language skills.

The equipment time is where babies are free to explore and experience activities which will help them develop their crawling and walking skills.

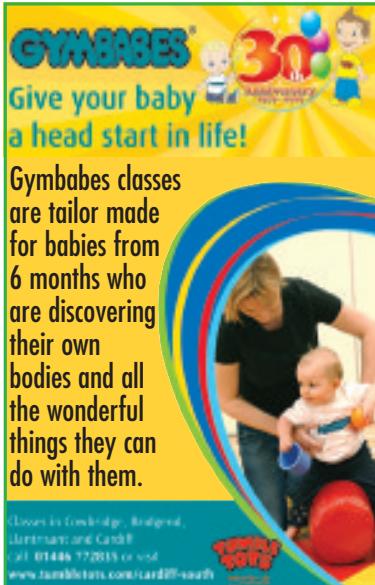
All activities take place with trained staff to help you make the most of each session.

Gymbabes offers babies the very best start, particularly from the physical point of view.

All babies develop at their own pace and the sessions allow for this so they have the opportunity to reach their full

potential.

Gymbabes is a fantastic gentle introduction to the Tumble Tots programme.



**Margam Country Park**  
[www.opt.gov.uk/margampark](http://www.opt.gov.uk/margampark)  
**25th May 2009**

**Margam Festival of Clowns**

**Jimmy Juggle's Circus Workshops**  
**Dr. Bob's Balloons,**  
**Mr Bubbles**  
**The Upside Down Clown,**  
**Face painting,**  
**The best dressed**  
**clown competition**  
**and much much more!**

The fun starts at 11am  
Entry prices:  
Adults £4  
children & concessions £3.  
3's and under free

**24th & 25th May**  
**May Craft Fair in Castle**  
(ENTRY FEE DAYS)

**Come along and join in the fun!**

**Neath Port Talbot**  
Castell-nedd Port Talbot  
Mynydd Mawr Health Centre Hospital



# Children's Choices

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



## Summer sounds with The Barry Music Shop

**A**S we are promised good weather for the summer, now is the time to

'grab a bargain' at The Barry Music Shop.

We have acoustic and classical guitars you can take anywhere with you,

whether on holiday or just sitting out in the sun!

Take advantage of the massive 20 per cent off all guitars in store at the moment – this will not be repeated again this year.

As a local trader, we realise that funds are tight for everyone, but we still hunt down great deals for all of our customers, including great deals on guitar strings, even better prices on clarinet and flutes and not forgetting violins – from £59.50 for the complete outfit of violin case and bow!

Please do not forget that all our staff are experts in the music and sound worlds, and can offer help and advice on everything we stock.

We also stock the biggest selection of audio leads, connectors and adaptors in the Vale, also spares and components – if you do not see what you want, please do ask.

Call in and see us – you will not be disappointed.

**JPL S-O-U-N-D** **The Barry Music Shop**  
**\*\*\*Music4Kids\*\*\***  
**SpongeBob Guitars**  
 \*\*\*SPECIAL BANK HOLIDAY OFFER\*\*\*  
 SpongeBob 1/6 Size Guitar Kit with Gig Bag  
 Was £32.99 NOW ONLY £25.99 while stocks last!  
**Classical Guitars in most Colours & Sizes**  
 Prices start from £25.00 for 1/4 size and from £35 for 1/2 size  
**Electric Guitar Starter Kits from £13.99**  
 \*Stop Press: News of 'Our May Madness' Event has been Extended - Now finishing 28th May  
**20% OFF ANY GUITAR**  
 CORT • VINTAGE • CRAFTSMAN • CRUISER • HAMER  
 Apples as individual Guitars ONLY - Not Packages or Starter Kits  
**SPECIAL OFFERS ON CLARINETS & FLUTES**  
 Odyssey Clarinet £179.99 NOW £169.99, Parchment Flute NOW £99.99  
**DUNLOP** Guitar Strings - 1 Set Promo Pack £1.49  
 Minstrel Drums & Percussion, Puff & Junior Size Drum Kits, Electronic Drum Kits, Electronic Practice Pads, Sticks & Sticks, Tambourines, Shakers, Solfé, Jingle Sticks, Maracas & more, Black & Wire Full Size 5 piece Drum Kits - Special Offer £299  
 Professional Kits with MINSTREL Drums included - under £100 with P&P  
 Expert In Store Guitar Repair Service  
**267 Holton Road, Barry (Weston Hill End!) Tel: 722711**

Shopping is great fun for children (and adults) at Pool Farm!

**F**OR more than 60 years the Stanley family have established a fine reputation as suppliers of poultry and of beef, pork, lamb and free range eggs (from chickens, geese and ducks).

Brothers Glyn and John Stanley have now opened the Pool Farm Produce market, selling all of the above home-produced items, as well as vegetables, fish, honey and preserves.

Children will love a visit to the Pool Farm shop, as the paddock alongside is home to ponies, goats, and chickens. A little closer to nature than a trip to the supermarket!

One unusual feature

is the 'honesty box' for egg sales. When the shop is closed, customers open up the box, take the eggs and leave the money.

**20% off at Scallywags!**

**M**AKE sure you visit this half term, as there are great offers not to be missed.

We have fantastic ranges of swimwear from Timberland, Pampolina and Oxbow for babies to teens.

Also arrived are 'lit-

tle linens', a lovely collection of timeless summer classics for boys and girls.

Our ever-popular Lelli Kelly are all in stock.

So with 20 per cent

**PAMPOLINA • CATIMINI • OILILY • KENZO**

**Celebrating 20 years!**

**20% off**

all stock from Thursday 21st May until Saturday 30th May

**SCALLYWAGS** of Cowbridge

**01446 772104**

**2 Willow Walk, COWBRIDGE**  
 (Situated near Town Hall car park bridge)

## Fontygary Leisure Park - Rhoose

Fun for all the Family ...



### WOBSTACLE

11am - 1pm  
 Every Sunday



Fabulous Health Club with weights room.  
 Great Rates Available



Pool Room with Dartboard



**Bank Holiday fun this weekend!**

OPEN TO NON RESIDENTS

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Fontygary Leisure Park, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan



**Sky Sports & Setanta**  
 8ft x 6ft screen  
 Latest Sporting Events



Sauna, Steam, Jacuzzi and Solarium



**LITE BITES**  
 Now Serving Sunday Lunch





# Children's Choices

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



## Café Cwtch backs baby survival campaign with Save the Children

CAFE  
CWTCH,  
High Street,

Barry, opened their doors on Saturday, May 16 to welcome

Jessica Evans, community fundraising executive for Save



ABOVE: Emma Lofthouse (Café Cwtch), Jenny Ogwen, Hilary Barber (Café Cwtch), Derek Brockway. In front: Jessica Evans (Save the Children).

## Preparing your child for the next school year

CHILDREN will soon be moving up a year in school. Some will be chang-

ing schools, and some moving into their GCSE years. This is the time to prepare them all.

Our lessons in maths and English fill the gaps in knowledge, achieve potential and increase confidence. These are all important to help your child start the next year in the best possible way.

As well as term time lessons, we will be giving holiday lessons at the end of August.

We have an excellent reputation for giving a friendly, individual approach to your child's needs.

Phone us for further details so that you can visit the centre to find out more. Kip McGrath Professional Tutoring on 01446 700999.

**Kip McGrath**

### Professional tutoring

- ✓ Mathematics ✓ English
- ✓ 6 yrs - 16 ✓ Qualified Teachers

For a free assessment call your local centre now:

Barry 01446 700999

Gain confidence in learning

## Pick-up a bank holiday book bargain at Nicklebys!

NICKLEBY'S BOOKSTORE now has lots of offers to make books an even better bargain: a wide

range of cut-price and second-hand children's and adult books, a new loyalty card for regular customers to earn

discounts, and a new 'book exchange' scheme - bring two second-hand books into the shop and pick one from the shelves for free!

Don't forget, we are happy to give advice and, if the book you want is not on the shelves, we can order in most books within 24 hours.

Watch out, too, for our forthcoming events - see at the shop for details - 6 Poundfield, Llantwit Major, CF61 1DL; or phone 01446 795166.

## NICKLEBY'S Bookstore

General, Bargain and Second hand books.

Book searches welcome

Non-stock books ordered promptly!

— Browsing is compulsory —

6 Poundfield Precinct LLANTWIT MAJOR

**01446 795166**

the Children UK, Jenny Ogwen and Derek Brockway to help raise money, and also the profile of this deserving charity.

The 'Go Tea-potty party' was held as part of Save the Children week (April 22-May 2).

Despite Derek's commitments, he agreed to still support the campaign and

encourage others to have similar tea parties.

The money raised on Saturday was going towards saving newborn babies across the globe who are threatened by illnesses such as diarrhoea and pneumonia.

To find out more, download a pack from [savethechildren.org.uk/goteapotty](http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/goteapotty)

**Looking for some half-term fun and exercise?**

**LLANTWIT MAJOR**  
2 DAY FOOTBALL FUN CAMP  
Thursday, 28 & Friday, 29 May.  
(UEFA qualified coaches/ full CRB check)

All players will receive medals and certificates.  
Also beginners session - 5x1 hour football fun with structured coaching, commencing Friday, 5th June.  
Enquiries/bookings: 01446 792680 or 07970 629077  
email: [pgsoccerschools@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pgsoccerschools@hotmail.co.uk)

## The Ship is shipshape and ready for the whole family to enjoy

**A** POPULAR pub in Barry is set to reopen its doors after a major refurbishment.

The Ship Inn on Harbour Road opens for business on May 20 at 11am.

The Ship, part of the Hungry Horse chain owned by Greene King, has had a major facelift including the fitting of a new kitchen and remodelling of the pub interior and beer garden.

"We have something to offer everyone," pub manager Alun Baker said. "There is good quality family food at an affordable price."

"The pub has a brand new menu with some great offers, including two meals for £8, burger and a pint for £4.99 and the launch of six new curries."

Regular customers will be amazed at the transformation inside and outside the pub, which include new family booths with private TV screens, a new sports bar with two pool tables, and plasma screens for the avid

sports fan.  
Sun worshippers can enjoy the new seating in the beer garden while letting the kids play in both the indoor and outdoor play areas

With regular entertainment including A 'Tom Jones Tribute' this bank holiday week-

**SHIP INN  
(BARRY ISLAND)**  
**HAS RE-OPENED!**  
New Menu, New Decor, Quality Family Food at Affordable Prices

**FAMILY  
BANK HOLIDAY FUN DAYS  
WITH HUNGRY HORSE**

**SATURDAY...**  
80's Disco from 8pm  
Bouncy Castle, Kids Entertainer  
**SUNDAY...**  
Tom Jones Tribute from 2pm  
Kids Entertainer, Bouncy Castle  
**MONDAY...**  
Ginger Growler from 2pm  
Face Painter, Kids Entertainer,  
Bouncy Castle, Mega Quiz from 8pm

**HARBOUR ROAD  
BARRY, CF625SB**  
Telephone:  
**01446 729060**



## St Donats Nursery School

Set in the grounds of the 12th century St Donats Castle

We have been offering children aged 2½ to 5 years unique experiences enabling them to reach their potential for over 33 years.

Experienced caring staff, high ratios.

Lots of outdoor learning and fun!

Involvement of international students.

Estyn accreditation and holders of the Basic Skills Quality Mark.

Now offering a choice of sessions at competitive rates:

**Mornings 9.00 to 12.30 (£7.50)**

**Afternoons 13.00 to 16.00 (£7.00)**

**Full Day\* 9.00 to 16.00 (£15.00)**

**For more information or to arrange a visit, contact Lynda Duncan on 01446 799276**

\* Full day for ages 3 and over.

Registered charity: 518495

## A great day out for the family at Warren Mill...

Come along and feed the animals at **Warren Mill**

**Farm Park - Lots of Animals!**  
**Pendoylan - near Cowbridge**

Come and see our rare and unusual breeds of farm animals - lambs, calves, pigs and Spike the Llama, plus refreshments and children's play area.

Most animals can be hand fed.

New arrivals to meet...

**New Zealand Kune Kune Pigs!**

**A Great Family Day Out  
FOR ONLY £3.00 adult £1 child**

**OPEN ALL DAY EVERY DAY**

**10am- dusk**

Follow the 'tourist signs' on the A48 from Bonvilston or junction 34 off the M4

**Tel 01446 781274**

[www.warrenmillfarm.co.uk](http://www.warrenmillfarm.co.uk)

**W**hat better way to spend a day out with the family than a day at Warren Mill Farm Park.

The farm has a selection of friendly farm animals including rabbits, sheep, goats, pigs, llamas, donkeys, miniature ponies and lots more.

All the animals are very friendly; most can be hand fed, and we sell little bags of animal feed.

We also have a play area, picnic area and a snack bar.

The fishery is a four-acre natural mill pond stocked with a large selection of coarse fish.

We're open daily, 10am-dusk. Tel. 01446 781274.

**DAY OUT WITH THOMAS**

**Friday 29 to Sunday 31 May**

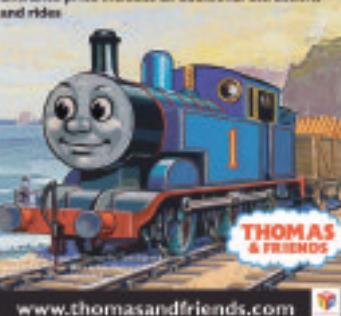
Meet Thomas and his friends in the Forest of Dean and talk to Sir Topham Hatt!

**DEAN FOREST RAILWAY**

Just turn up or **SAVE £5** by booking online at [www.deanforestrailway.co.uk](http://www.deanforestrailway.co.uk)

You can also book in advance on 01594 841164 or by [www.deanforestrailway.co.uk](http://www.deanforestrailway.co.uk)

For enquiries see website or tel. 01594 845840. Entrance price includes all additional attractions and rides.



You can now view the complete edition of this week's GEM, on line, in a full digital version.

# Vale schools get top marks for their healthy approach



YOUNG people in the Vale celebrated their achievements through the Vale Healthy Schools scheme.

All Vale schools have been part of the scheme for 18 months. It is coordinated by the National Public Health Service through the Local Public Health Team, and actively supported by the Vale Council and the Vale Local Health Board (LHB).

Health issues which the schools tackle include food and fitness, emotional health and well being, the environment and global citizenship, pupil participation, working with the community and safety and hygiene.

A special day was held recently at the Barry Memorial Hall, and the audience was welcomed by a band

made up of children and young people from Cowbridge schools, who played a series of lively numbers.

Jane Hutt, Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning and Skills, presented two pupils from each school with plaques and certificates of accreditation from the Welsh Assembly Government.

These marked their achievements in reaching their healthy schools targets over the past year.

Children from nine local schools demonstrated a range of healthy school activities which ranged from songs by the choir of a local special school to squash and street dancing.

Finally, there was a grand finale, with belly dancing from the pupils of St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School.



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MENS &  
LADIES  
WEAR

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Leather Jackets, Ties & Shirts

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DESIGNER LADIES' FASHIONS  
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Specialising in carpets, rugs and cushion floor for every room in your home.

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Free Estimate and Measuring Service.  
Commercial & Domestic work undertaken.

For a friendly, helpful service

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Tel. 01446 746607



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Penthouse  
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Clarendon  
Ossifloor  
Rhinofloor  
Nairn  
Plus lots more!

## VANILLA CAFE & TAPAS BAR

Fully Licensed

Wines, Beers & Spirits available from 11am til late

**Tapas Nights** Every Friday & Saturday  
(booking advisable)

**THE GREAT AMERICAN BREAKFAST**  
served from 9.00 am onwards

Fresh Italian Coffees with Coffee & Cakes deals.  
Lovely selection of Lunches & Snacks served daily.  
Open 9 am til late Monday - Saturday

86 HIGH STREET, BARRY  
Telephone: 01446 742124

- Viewing a home, to buy or rent? Try Gareth Jones Estate Agents or Barringtons Lettings.
- Need a solicitor? Try Hartland Watkins.
- Flooring and Furniture from Harmony Furnishings.
- For a family portrait go to Francis Kettle Photography.
- Take a peek into your future at The Guiding Light Centre.
- Look your best with Giorgio, Jade or She Wears it Well.
- Accessorize at Waterlily.
- Pamper yourself at Balance, Jaks, or the Beauty Clinic.
- Look after your eyes at Arbuthnott or Jones and Jones Opticians.
- Throw a party with Dr.Bobs Balloons.
- Cooking a Sunday roast? Go to Vic Hopkins butchers.
- Shop for a new baby at Smollany's.
- Nip out for a bite to eat or a drink with friends - at Vanilla, Oriental Diner, Scarlets or the Borough Arms.
- Purchase a new computer from MJM
- Have the car serviced at Allsta Motors.

Find everything you need  
at the west end ...

**HIGH-eST Quality!  
BROAD-eST Choice!**

# Out and About with The GEM

## Hannah (11) is taking dancing into spotlight

ON May 10, open auditions were held at the Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff for dancers to perform in the upcoming Hip Hop Production, *Pied Piper*, produced by Boy Blue Ent as part of the Breakin' the Bay Urban Arts Festival on June 12-14.

Hannah Bishop (11) from Barry was successful in attaining a place and will start rehearsing

with the dance company and choreographer Kendrick 'H2O' Sandy.

"This is an amazing opportunity for Hannah, who trains with YDance at the YMCA each week and the experience will definitely help her in her dance development. We hope that all who know Hannah will support her by going to watch her perform on the Donald Gordon Stage," said spokeswoman Emma Mallam.

**RIGHT:**  
Hannah Bishop.



## Your chance to win a set of Tudor stamps

THEY ruled during one of the most famous periods in our history, now the Tudors are back on new stamps from Royal Mail.

The six stamps mark the 500th anniversary of the accession of Henry VIII and the House of Tudor, and readers of the Glamorgan GEM can

win a set of the 'Regal' miniatures in our exciting Royal Mail competition this month.

The stamps feature six portraits from the Welsh dynasty that saw some of the best known of our Kings and Queens sit upon the English throne.

Val Bodden, media relations manager for Royal Mail in Wales, said: "Coinciding with the 500th anniversary of

the accession of Henry VIII, this amazing set of stamps profiles the monarchs as well as the major icons of the era.

"This is the second set in our landmark Kings and Queens series of stamp issues."

To enter the competition and win a House of Tudor Royal Mail stamp presentation pack, answer the following question: Which of these kings hasn't sat on the throne?

A Henry B Charles C Kong?

Answers on a postcard, marked 'Stamp Competition', to Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL, no later than Friday, May 29.

No correspondence will be entered into, and the judge's decision is final. Good luck!

**W**HEN Tom Hanks and Ron Howard took their first journey into Dan Brown's world of Robert Langdon, in *The Da Vinci Code*, the results were surprisingly muted.

Huge box office takings couldn't disguise an underwhelming and unwieldy film that paid far too much attention to Brown's prose and not enough to action and story. Their second stab at the world, *Angels and Demons*, attempts to redress the balance.

This time around, Hanks' Langdon is asked to investigate when, following the death of the Pope, the Illuminati capture four cardinals, intending to execute one every hour before detonating a bomb in the Vatican.

Teaming up with a scientist (played by Ayelet Zurer) and a priest (Ewan McGregor), Langdon faces a race against time to stop the Illuminati carrying out their threats...

If there were a series of books most suitable for big-screen adaptation, then Dan Brown's Robert Langdon stories would fit into that category.

Having not read the source material (though aware that it is actually the first of Brown's novels), I went into the film without the expectations that no doubt hampered many people's experience of the first film.

Yet the film left me relatively underwhelmed, lacking any real tension or any real thrill.

Surprisingly, given the film's race-against-time framing device, there is little in the way

of urgency or peril exuded by any of the characters. Despite the danger posed by the Illuminati and the fact that Langdon and company have roughly four and a half hours to save everyone in and around the Vatican, there is a far more lukewarm.

So the big question is whether or not *Angels and Demons* can emulate *The Da Vinci Code*'s financial success and deliver a film that is not only capable of drawing in huge amounts of money, but also makes for a highly enjoyable cinematic experience.

The answer is sadly not: *Angels and Demons* is a ponderous film that only really grips in fits and starts, and, while perhaps more impressive than its predecessor, is still severely lacking in filmic smarts.

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## SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

Demons drags itself over the finish line without ever truly exerting itself.

While it's a perfunctory piece of work that gently holds rather than grips, and an improvement on the last Langdon outing, it is still an inferior effort and far too wordy to enthrall.

VERDICT – Less a summer blockbuster and more a historical lecture, *Angels and Demons* is a dull film that is all talk and no action.

While better than *The Da Vinci Code*, it is still a film that struggles to convey the sense of adventure and excitement in Dan Brown's pages into a satisfactory film. *Poor*.

## The Angels and Demons can't save Tom Hanks in poor film

**W**HEN Tom Hanks and Ron Howard took their first journey into Dan Brown's world of Robert Langdon, in *The Da Vinci Code*, the results were surprisingly muted.

Huge box office takings couldn't disguise an underwhelming and unwieldy film that paid far too much attention to Brown's prose and not enough to action and story. Their second stab at the world, *Angels and Demons*, attempts to redress the balance.

This time around, Hanks' Langdon is asked to investigate when, following the death of the Pope, the Illuminati capture four cardinals, intending to execute one every hour before detonating a bomb in the Vatican.

Teaming up with a scientist (played by Ayelet Zurer) and a priest (Ewan McGregor), Langdon faces a race against time to stop the Illuminati carrying out their threats...

If there were a series of books most suitable for big-screen adaptation, then Dan Brown's Robert Langdon stories would fit into that category.

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So the big question is whether or not *Angels and Demons* can emulate *The Da Vinci Code*'s financial success and deliver a film that is not only capable of drawing in huge amounts of money, but also makes for a highly enjoyable cinematic experience.

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# Out and About with The GEM

## Fancy a day out at the races?

MORE THAN 100 entries have been received for the Countryside Alliance Point-To-

## All dressed up for a royal show!

SALLY KINGSBURY, playing Guinevere in Cowbridge Amateur Operatic Society's forthcoming show *Camelot* by Lerner and Loewe, is pictured (below) in one of the dozen or so authentic costumes she will wear as Queen Guinevere.

Her husband Tony Kingsbury (chairman of CAOS) said: "Costumes were going to play an important part in the show and we are delighted with them. They look amazing and some of the best we've seen for *Camelot*.

Tony, who also plays Lancelot, said: "It is our 40th anniversary and as it was a special year, we felt that it was right that we put on a spectacle of a show for our audience."

"Many of our costumes are ex-RSC and are very authentic. We have been fortunate to have an excellent and experienced cast and chorus for *Camelot* and it promises to be a spectacular show."

*Camelot* is at Llantwit Major Comprehensive School, Ham Lane, from May 27-30 at 7.15pm (special matinee performance at 2pm on Saturday).

Tickets are available on 0845 4592605.



Sally Kingsbury in costume.

## OCEAN LOUNGE Porthkerry WHITSUN BANK HOLIDAY

FRIDAY 22nd MAY  
HOLLY WILSON

International Tribute Singer  
Food Served til 9pm

SATURDAY, 23rd MAY  
THE VAMPIRES

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SUNDAY, 24th MAY  
SAMANTHA ADAMS

Female Vocalist

FRIDAY, 29th MAY  
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Point Steeplechases at Redlands Park Racecourse, Bonvilston, this bank holiday Monday (May 25) writes Brian Lee.

There are 45 horses entered for the first race of the day - open maiden race - at 2pm. Twenty are down to run in the club members' race for novice riders, 16 in the men's open, 20 in the ladies' open, 32 in the restricted and 20 in the intermediate.

Many of the season's leading horses and riders will be in action, and an exciting afternoon's steeplechasing is promised over the popular racecourse.

## WHAT'S ON IN BRIEF

**Age Concern's coffee morning**  
AGE Concerns, Western Vale Good Neighbour Scheme is holding a coffee morning on Thursday, June 4 at the Llantwit Major Hall, Boerton Road, Llantwit Major, from 10am-2pm.

Admission is £1.50 and this includes tea, coffee and biscuits (plus top ups). There will be a variety of stalls, from home-made cakes, tombola, bric-a-brac, plants and a raffle.

Proceeds raise from the coffee morning will go towards the Good Neighbour Scheme.

It's a good opportunity to meet up with friends.

**Amber Fairs**  
Antiques and collectables at  
The Heronston Hotel  
Ewenny Rd, Ewenny  
BRIDGEND  
CF35 5AW  
on Sunday, 24 May  
10am - 4pm  
Quality Stalls  
£1 Entrance

## Tondu exhibition

THE Tondu and District Art Society holds its summer exhibition at the Len Evans Centre, Aberkenfig, on June 13-16, at 10am-6pm. Free entry.

## JUNE:

### Afternoon Cafe Concert

Tues 2, 3pm (with free tea and cake)

### World Class Cellist

Julian Lloyd Webber

Champagne and Strawberry concert in St Donats Castle Sun 7, 7pm

### Michael Chapman

"Brilliant folk guitarist" The Independent Fri 12 June, 8pm

### Cream Tea Concert

Midsummer afternoon concert with the Welsh Baroque Orchestra Sun 21, 3pm (with free cream tea)

### Drawing Class

Thurs 25, 10am - 4pm

### August Bank Holiday

Shakespeare's Globe brings A Midsummer Night's Dream to St Donats Castle gardens Mon 31 August, 6.30pm

### ST-DONATS

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Near Llantwit Major, Vale of Glamorgan

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## Medieval village hosts warriors

COSMESTON Medieval Village near Penarth is the home of a reconstructed village of the 14th century, but on bank holiday Sunday/Monday (May 24-25), even

more history comes alive at the village!

Victorian soldiers of the Zulu war will rub shoulders with the Royal Welch Fusiliers from the fields of Waterloo; while Vikings and pirates.

Ticket prices are: Greece can be seen with Adults £5, concessions £2, family (two adults, the demure and cultured £2, ladies of the Regency £12, three children) £12.

For more information, telephone 02920 701678.



## Broad Street Garden Centre & Boerton Garden Centre

Broad Street, Barry

Tel. 01446 720333

## Boerton Garden Centre

Boerton,

Tel. 01446 792105

## Whitsun Bank Holiday BEDDING PLANTS NOW IN STOCK

LOVELY SELECTION OF:  
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Organic 80ltr £3.25 each or  
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40ltr £1.75

Multi-purpose 80ltr £3.99  
40ltr £2.99 20ltr £1.50

Growbags and Peat £1.25  
a bag collected

Ericaceous 40ltr £2.99  
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**BARK** £38 cubic yard  
£3.99 80ltr bag or  
3 for £10 collected

### DECORATIVE STONE

Goldcoast, Cotswold,  
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Many more stones available -  
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### ★ STAR BUY ★ MEMBRANE

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Apples, Pears, Plums, Cherries, Kiwi, Grapes,  
Blackcurrant, Cranberry, Strawberries, Raspberry

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Rides extra charge.  
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## Llandow Race Circuit hosts British Heart Foundation cycle ride

by MIKE SMITH

THE British Heart Foundation is hoping a new record level of funding will be raised by the many young cyclists who rode around Llandow Race Circuit recently.

Children aged from four to 14 tried their hardest around the track, pausing occasionally for refreshments provided by the BHF committee.

Sharon Evans, who owns the circuit with her husband Tony, started the riders using a megaphone.

To minimise the chances of an accident there was a staggered start with the smallest children starting first, several of them riding alongside a parent.

The weather was glorious and while some families sat on the grass bank, others relaxed in their picnic chairs.

Although some keen children have already started collecting, the closing date for sponsorship forms to be handed in is September 24. Only then will the BHF know how much the event has raised.

Every group will be entitled to retain 30 per cent of their sponsorship for their own organisation's funds.

Certificates will be awarded to all participants and those raising more than £50 by the deadline will each be presented with a personal prize according to the amount they have raised. The BHF shield will be awarded as a team prize for the team raising the most sponsorship.



The pictures on this page were taken by MIKE WILCOCK. They are available to order from [wilcock60@aol.com](mailto:wilcock60@aol.com) or telephone 01446 774502.



### NEWS FROM PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

## Wild garlic, bluebells and a butterfly!

THE theme of the walk was wild garlic on south Gower and nature did not disappoint as nine walkers met leader Joy to start their walk under a hefty shower.

Leaving Penmaen (meaning stone top) nestled under Cefn Bryn, the second highest point on Gower, they went by a quiet lane to reach their first woodland at Northhill and, following the slippery bridle path downhill through carpets of wild garlic and bluebells, they reached the road at Parkmill.

Here, during the 12th century, stood a water-powered corn and saw mill that has since been renovated and with crafts forms the Gower Heritage Centre.

Crossing the Pennard Pill River, they climbed narrow winding paths through woods where coats were hastily discarded as the skies brightened.

A short steep climb

led to the golf course above Pennard Burrows, and a series of fields led them down through Southgate to the cliff top, where they were greeted by a stiff cool breeze blowing in from the sea.

Tramping over land owned by the National Trust, the group headed past Deep Slade and utilised some handy gorse bushes near an ancient fort to shield them from the strong sea breeze while enjoying the sea.

Leaving the misty long sweep of Oxwich Bay long behind them, they passed two rock climbers at Pwlldu Head and continued along the undulating path, finally descending at Pwlldu Bay.

Here, they entered the beautiful wooded limestone Bishopston Valley with its carpet of wild garlic, bluebells and in contrast, the five-forked petals of tall Red Campion.

Walking beside the Bishopston Brook, they were fortunate to spy a male orange-tip butterfly.



ABOVE: Wild garlic on the slopes of South Gower.

fly, whose white forewings have a fiery orange band that clearly can be seen in flight. This was the perfect place as its caterpillars enjoy the Cuckoo Flower or Lady's Smock, both of which can be found in damp meadows.

Renowned for its caves, potholes and underground chambers, further along the group passed Gut Hole Cave or the 'guzzle-hole' where the brook roars and gurgles, almost drowning out the large variety of birdsong the wood encourages.

Their final climb led to Kittle village, where

the group stopped on the green for a well-deserved lunch in sunshine, before tramping by field and road towards the direction of Swansea Airport.

A bridleway led across a small ford and a lovely sunken path took them to the tiny village of Iston, where they walked through the churchyard into the Iston Cwm.

Crossing several bridges over the brook, every single inch of the wood was smothered with wild garlic and its pungent smell filled the air as they stopped further on for a drink.

Uphill paths led to

fields and the hamlet of Lunon, before more garlic-filled woods led them eventually to Parc le Breos, established in the 1220s by John de Braose, marcher lord of Gower.

There was time to examine the burial chamber, or cromlech, situated in the narrow flat valley and cared for by CADW, before wide pathways through Park Woods, on part of the 35-mile linear Gower Way walk, led to the back of Cefn Bryn and the short walk across open moorland back to the car park.

On May 23, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 10.5-mile moderate walk along the Bath sky line and please bring £1 for the toll bridge crossing; contact Val/Terry on 029 2059 5791/029 20 70 6315.

On May 24, meet at 9am at the Barry Waterfront for an eight-mile moderate walk at Ogmore, Castle upon Alun and Southerndown; contact Val W on 01446 734925.

On May 26, the mid-

week walk will leave Penarth cliff top car park at 10am for a seven-mile easy walk to Sully Island - please note the change of leader; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

On May 28, the third summer evening walk will leave Cosmetown at 7pm for a four-mile easy walk along the coast and Lavernock beach; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice.

For other groups walk log onto [www.ramblers.org.uk](http://www.ramblers.org.uk) Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD



## Plug and play!

LLANTWIT MAJOR-based charity, Major Music, is promoting another of its 'Plug and Play' events at the Blacksmith's Arms in Llantwit Major on Sunday, May 24, from 6pm.

Trustee and mentor with the Major Music project, Fraser Scott, explained that at many of the showcase events promoted by Major Music, members of the audience have often wanted to 'have a go' themselves.

"The event will give less experienced 'performers' the opportunity of trying a favourite song... or two. For the more accomplished 'entertainers' the stage is yours," he said.

"The event is open to young and old alike – it's about getting up and enjoying yourself in a relaxed and informal setting with friends and family."

Performers are asked to bring along their own instruments, but a full PA system will be available.

A 'music extravaganza' will also take place at St Donats Arts Centre on Friday, July 17.

For more information about Major Music, telephone 01446 792543 or 07966 281804 or leave a message on the website: [www.majormusic.net](http://www.majormusic.net)

## Bowlers struggle for early season form

IT was not a particularly successful week for the bowlers from the Murch, with both ladies and men's sections playing three games and winning one, while losing two.

The men recorded a welcome win in the Munro Cup game at Windsor Penarth by 62-54, but failed to record any success in their two Saturday games.

In the Welsh Club Championship game at Caerau Welfare, the hosts registered a four-rink win 84-53.

The Murch rink skipped by Alan Savage (up 19 shots) and Bernard Toozer (up one shot) were the Murch winners, while the rinks skipped by Randall Pratt and John Evans went down by 1- and 12 shots respectively.

The Murch ladies, meanwhile, gained a resounding 25-shot win at Fairwater in a Glamorgan League game.

While skip Gloria Perry's rink went down 8-15, the rinks of skips Judy Fudge and Cynthia Tranter won by 23-6 and 2-5 respectively.

Penarth ladies beat Murch ladies 4-25 in an Evening League game, the rinks of skips Belinda Price and Gloria Perry losing by 14 and one shot respectively.

In a ladies Double Rink game at Barry Central the hosts won 37-21, skips Pat Munter and Pat Ayres rinks losing 14-17 and 7-20 respectively.

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## SOCIETY AGM

COWBRIDGE Record Society held its annual general meeting at the Lesser Hall on Wednesday, May 13.

Following the meeting, members enjoyed a talk from Nicole Burnett about the value of household objects in teaching history to children. Refreshments were served, and those present were invited to view the recently-refurbished Cell Three of Cowbridge Museum.

JR

TERRY NOLAN



## THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

(GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT, 1990

### NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 8 OF: -

APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

DEVELOPMENT THAT MAY BE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST

DEVELOPMENT THAT MAY AFFECT A PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY

DEVELOPMENT NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

## CONSULTATION ON TWO PLANNING APPLICATIONS

NOTICE is given that the following applications have been made to The Vale of Glamorgan Council:

### Planning Application No. 2009/00500/FUL

Applicant: The Secretary of State for Defence, Metrix UK Limited and Sodexo Limited.

**Location:** Land at and adjoining MoD St Athan in the Vale of Glamorgan, extending from the B4265 at Boerton in the west to Castleton Farm, St Athan, in the east, and from north of the runway and north of Castleton Road at St Athan in the south to land at the northern end of the MoD St Athan site at Picketston and up to Flemington Road, St Athan, in the north; together with land adjoining the B4265 near Gileston and land at Waycock Cross, Barry.

**Proposal:** Development of a Defence Technical College and associated facilities and works, including 483 Service Families' Accommodation dwellings, military external and field training areas, the alteration and reconfiguration of St Athan golf course, a hotel, an energy centre, improved parking and servicing facilities for the existing spar shop on Eglwys Brewis Road, the provision of a new access road and other associated highway works and improvements, including a garage for Rose Cottage, and all associated ancillary building, sports, community, ecological mitigation and enhancement, engineering, landscaping, means of enclosure and other works.

### Planning Application No. 2009/00501/FUL

Applicant: The Welsh Ministers

**Location:** Land at and adjoining the Aerospace Business Park at St Athan in the Vale of Glamorgan, extending from land adjacent to the B4265 at Boerton in the west to land adjacent to Cowbridge Road, St Athan in the east, and from the B4265 at Batslays in the south to land north of Boerton Brook in the north; together with land adjoining the B4265 near Gileston and land at Waycock Cross, Barry.

**Proposal:** Development at and adjoining the Aerospace Business Park, including: the erection of new and replacement buildings, airfield operational facilities and structures; the provision of access roads, hard standings and other infrastructure; security fencing; landscape and ecological works; garage for Rose Cottage; all associated building and engineering works; and related highway improvements.

The two proposals have been accompanied by an Environmental Statement covering both proposals which can be inspected at the address given below. Members of the public may obtain copies of the Environmental Statement at a charge of £150.00, from Entec UK Ltd, Pacific House, Imperial Way, Reading RG2 0TD (Tel: 0118 3775 600) so long as stocks last.

Please be advised that Members of the public may inspect copies of all the submitted documentation in connection with each of the applications, including the Environmental Statement, at any of the following locations: -

• The On-Line Applications Register via the Council's Website at [www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

• At the Council's Dock Offices without appointment, from Monday - Friday, 8.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (4.30 p.m. on Friday). Please note that Planning Officers are not always available to discuss applications, however a Duty Officer is available to assist if required.

• At the Offices (by arrangement) at one of the following Town/ Community Councils: -

**St Athan Community Council:** Call The Clerk, John Haswell, on 01446 750452 / 750050  
**Llantwit Major Town Council:** Town Hall, Church Street, Llantwit Major - Call The Clerk, Mrs Stokes on 01446 793707  
**Llanmaes and Llanfair:** - Call The Clerk, Mrs Griffin on 07969 204773

Please also be advised that arrangements have been made for the submitted documentation and display material to be available for inspection between the hours of 9.30am and 7.00pm at the following dates/ locations, with Officers of the Council available to assist with any queries and questions: -

• Wednesday 3rd June 2009: The Gathering Place, St Athan

• Thursday 4th June 2009: Llantwit Major Town Hall, Church Street, Llantwit Major

### APPLICATION THAT MIGHT AFFECT THE SETTING OF A LISTED BUILDING

NOTICE is given that the application(s) detailed above might affect the setting of the following Listed Buildings: - Batslays Farmhouse (Grade II); Picketston House (Grade II); Church of St Brise (Grade II); Castleton Farmhouse (Grade II); Bakehouse and Donkey Stable at Castleton Farmhouse (Grade II); The former barn at Castleton Farm (Grade II); Bethesda's Chapel (Grade II).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Head of Planning and Transportation at The Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT, within 21 days of the date of this Notice, quoting the relevant application reference number (or referring to both reference numbers if the comments relate to both proposals). Please note, however, that any comments received after the expiry of the 21 day consultation period will still be considered, provided they are received no later than 12pm on the day before the application is determined at Committee.

Dated: 21st May 2009

Head of Planning and Transportation

Contact OneVale 01446 700111 • [www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

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# BRYN HAFREN STUDENTS SAY A VERY FOND FAREWELL WITH 'SUCCESS' CERTIFICATES

BRYN HAFREN Comprehensive School held a special ceremony on May 8 to acknowledge the hard work and success of the year-11 pupils who were awarded their certificates.

Pupils celebrated by signing each other's shirts, and had fruit drinks and biscuits.

A number of the students plan to return for the sixth form, while others will be going to college and some will be taking up jobs.

**PHOTOGRAPHS by IAN DIXON**



# 'THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES' – PUPILS AT BRYN HAFREN CELEBRATE END OF AN ERA



## NEWS FROM BARRY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL PUPILS

### *New cycle shelter is now in use*

*RIGHT: Robert, Scott and David on their bikes outside the new cycle shelter.*



**FOLLOWING** the production of a school travel plan involving pupils, the school council, parents and governors, the comprehensive school was successful in securing £119,000 as part of the Safer Routes to Schools Initiative from the Welsh Assembly Government.

A number of measures have been taken to ensure the safety of pupils in and around the school. Already in place is a new crossing in front of the school on Port Road, with flashing signs to remind motorists that they are approaching a school and that there is a 40 mph speed limit.

We hope to have this limit reduced further.

A new cycle path has also been put in place from the Colcot Road roundabout through to the end of the school drive.

Most exciting of all is the construction of a new cycle entrance and a lockable cycle shelter for more than 100 bikes, with lockers for helmets and wet weather gear.

Questionnaires and surveys carried out as part of the bid indicated that while 76 per cent of pupils owned bikes, only four per cent rode them to school because there was nowhere they could be left safely.

Hopefully, more pupils will decide on the healthy option of riding to school, rather than relying on the bus or mum and dad to drive them.

This will also help relieve the congestion around the school at the beginning and end of the day.

More than 100 pupils have already signed up to bring their bikes and there is regularly a queue waiting for the shelter to be unlocked, even on wet mornings!

# A double triumph for Barry Wanderers

**MONKSWOOD** v  
**BARRY WANDERERS**

On Saturday, May 9, the Wanderers faced Monkswood in their second league game of the 2009 season.

After losing the toss and being put in to bat, Wanderers skipper Jamie Keir, along with Ed Sherriff, made a watchful start to the innings, putting on 38 for the first wicket off 11 overs.

However, Keir was soon bowled for 18 by Bleazard, and Sherriff quickly followed, controversially lbw for 14.

The Wanderers' middle-order again faltered, and spin proved the undoing of the men from the Vale, with young spinner Watkins causing havoc and helping himself to 4-20 off his 10 overs.

Blundell, George and Tucker were all put under pressure by the young man, and eventually succumbed to his flight and guile, with Mark Ellis offering the only resistance for 17.

Wanderers were teetering on the edge, struggling on 78-6 after 30 overs. However, the lower-middle order and the tail rallied. James Hassett scored a bright and breezy 23 until over-confidence got the better of him and he was bowled.

When last-man Beckett strode out to the crease with six overs remaining, Wanderers were still only on 116-9. However, both he and Pathale showed great application and fighting spirit to first of all guide Wanderers to 125 to claim another batting point, but then push them on to 147-9 off the full allocation of 45.

Skipper Keir was confident his fiery Wanderers' attack would get the most out of a quick Monkswood wicket.

Hostile bowling from Beckett and controlled deliveries from Hassett, who bowled a nagging line outside off-stump, offered the openers little. He got his reward when he had Brock caught behind for 11.

Beckett removed the other opener Roberts, when Hassett took a great catch. The Hassett-Keir combination struck again when skipper Jones went without scoring, and Wanderers had their hosts struggling; Hassett proved good value by picking up 2-13 off 7.

Blundell helped himself to a caught and bowled, just rewards for an excellent spell where he only went for 13 off 8.

After a rusty start, Evan Davies bowled some unplayable deliveries, his out-swingers causing the batsmen no end of trouble. They were gratefully snuffed up by George, Hassett and the 'keeper Keir, who would go on to claim five catches in the innings.

Despite resistance from Malson (27) and Trumper (16), Monkswood were all out for 114.

Davies finished up with 5-20 off 8.4 overs and the Wanderers 1st XI claimed their first victory on the bounce since 2007.

The Barry Wanderers Sofa Sofa man-of-the-match was Evan Davies.

**BARRY WANDERERS** v  
**MOUNTAIN ASH**

ON Saturday, May 16, Barry Wanderers played their third league fixture of the season, entertaining Mountain Ash at Hayes Point.

Despite the surrounding area suffering torrential downpours, the wicket was surprisingly hard and dry.

It offered a bit of life to the opening attack of Hassett and Beckett. Despite this, some slightly uncharacteristic waywardness from the pacemen allowed Mountain Ash to score at an initial good rate.

However, as the runs flowed, wickets started to fall, with Beckett making the initial breakthrough in his third over. This proved the problem for the visitors; they just were not able to build partnerships, particularly once the change-bowlers came on with the score at 36-2 off 11.

Evan Davies picked up from where he had left off the previous week, claiming 2-19 off seven overs before injury forced him off.

The star performer with the ball for the Wanderers was Neil Blundell, who put the breaks on Mountain Ash's innings by bowling straight through his 10 overs and claiming 4-29.

Once Blundell had finished his spell and Hughes had claimed his first Wanderers wicket, Mountain Ash found themselves 114-9 off 34 overs. Beckett and Hassett then returned, thundering in, desperate to claim the final wicket and claim maximum bowling points.

They threw all they had at the No 10 and 11, but Davies (13\*) and skipper Williams (35\*) held out and guided their side beautifully to 153-9 off 45 overs, a useful score on a tricky pitch.

All pressure was on Ed Sherriff and the returning Gareth Lanagan, as they went out to chase down this potentially testing target. However, they made light work of the difficult conditions (the heavens opened briefly at the start of the innings before the sun broke through for the remainder of the afternoon), and they smashed their way to an opening stand of 147.

Both men played some sumptuous strokes and the Mountain Ash bowlers had no answer as firstly Lanagan then Sherriff, both helped themselves to 50s. Lanagan was disappointed that he was unable to see it through to the end when he departed for 60, bowled by Williams.

However, Sherriff and Hughes got Wanderers to their target with nine wickets remaining in the 24th over, ensuring their team maintained their highly impressive start to the season, claiming their third win in as many games.

Wanderers next travel to Lisvane this Saturday, bidding to maintain their 100 per cent winning start to the season.

The Sofa Sofa Barry Wanderers man-of-the-match was Ed Sherriff for his cultured 75 not out.

## BARRY 'MINIS' COMPETE IN ABERGAVENNY TOURNAMENT



ABOVE: The minis pose for their team photo.

**OVER the Bank Holiday weekend, Barry RFC under-7s and under-8s attended the Abergavenny rugby tournament at the UK Showground.**

The coaches mixed the under-7s and under-8s to put out two teams. Everyone who came had an excellent time and some even got to meet Ryan Jones and Ian Gough on the Saturday.

Team coaches Jeff and Grantley, and team manager Nikki, would like to say how proud they were of all the players for their fantastic effort during their matches.

Some were playing their first-ever match. Every player gave 100 per cent and we witnessed some fantastic tries throughout the day.

The group has grown beyond recognition this season with more than 40 registered players and the club is also proud to have

introduced a rugby Ask for team manager crèche for the under-6s. Nikki.

As the season draws to a close, we are all looking forward to presentation day on May 16, where Ben Blair from the Cardiff Blues will be presenting the children with their medals and trophies.

Anyone interested in playing tag rugby is welcome to come along on a Sunday morning at the Reservoir Fields, Barry under-7s, 10am-11am; under-8s, 11am-12 noon.

NT

As the season draws to a close, we are all looking forward to presentation day on May 16, where Ben Blair from the Cardiff Blues will be presenting the children with their medals and trophies.

NT

## NEWS FROM RHOOSE LIFEGUARDS

# Victory for Rhoose team in the annual ski race

### Welsh Team news

**RHOOSE Lifeguards would like to congratulate James Grandfield and Lana Evans on being selected for the Welsh team competing in the Commonwealth Championships, due to be held in Edmonton, Canada in May.**

### Ski Race news

**ON Sunday, May 10, Rhoose Lifeguards held their annual ski race, which was also round one of the Great British Ocean Ski Series.**

Over 60 paddlers from all over the United Kingdom entered the event. The race consisted of various distance ocean courses.

Rhoose Lifeguards were overall team winners and the Rhoose Lifeguard members results are as follows:

Under-16 boys - 2nd, Charlie Grandfield, 3rd, Alex Varney, 4th, Luke Giddings, 5th, Chad Bremner, 6th, Rhys Perry, 9th, Tom Parker, 10th, Sean Giddings.

Under-16 girls - 3rd, Storm Morham, 4th, Anthea Young, 5th, Danielle Edgerton, 7th, Teg Young, 8th, Hannah James, 9th, Abbie Phipps, 10th, Dominique



Declaire, 11th, Skye Morham.

Under-19 boys - 1st, Simon Perry, 5th, Perry Sugden.

Under-19 girls - 1st, Eloise Neighbour; Senior men - 7th, James Grandfield; Senior women - 2nd, Kathryn Worth; Men's Masters - 8th, Simon Parker; Women's Masters - 1st, Karen O'Donaghue Harris; Double Skis - 4th, Chris Braggins/Paul Gardner, 5th, Dave Cooper/Steve Edgerton, Overall aggregate

team points - Rhoose 56; Woolacombe 32; like to wish club member Nancy Roberts-Smith a speedy recovery following an accident at Fontygary Bay during the competition.

This is a very unfortunate, but timely, reminder to all of us of the real dangers from rock falls at Fontygary and other places along our coast.

Get well soon Nancy and we look forward to seeing you back in training. SE

# Romilly 'A' bowlers scrape home by a single point!

**BARRY Romilly Bowls Club 'A' side travelled to Cadoxton Bowling Club on Saturday to compete in the SVLA trophy.**

Although the green looked good, it turned out to be heavy and a close match transpired.

Alf Woodcock's rink of A. Bumford, G. Worrall and K. Westgate had a splendid match and led from start to fin-

ish scoring two fives on the way to a 24-13 win.

Bryn Gough's rink of A. Jones, J. Jones and M. Gershenson also had a fine result and led from start to finish which included a five on the way to a 20-15 win.

Bob Wyatt's rink of D. Knight, J. Coles and C. Davies played against Cadoxton skip Alan Carpenter's three-man team and needed to fight hard to win the rink 16-15, thanks to Romilly's

new member Jeff Coles whose final wood draw on the last end proved to be the winning shot.

Vince McFarland's rink of P. Head, G. Eastment and B. Cheal were overwhelmed from the start of this game and suffered a heavy defeat 11-27.

However, the 'A' side captain Brian Cheal was more than grateful to win the aggregate 71-70. RH

## Students enjoy successful examination in Tae Kwon Do

**OVER the weekend of April 17, nine members of the Cadoxton Schools of Tae Kwon Do successfully completed a gruelling six-hour examination to achieve the coveted 1st degree black belt.**

The examination board consisted of Master Ronald Thomas (Wales), Master J. Teeuwissen (Holland), master Jenny Treasure (Belgium), and Master Alyson Williams (England). There was a total of 12 students sitting the examination.

The examination started at 10am on Saturday

morning, and first up were the students sitting their 1st degree, followed by two students testing for their 2nd and 3rd degrees.

The examination consisted of all the elements of Tae Kwon Do.

The examination board were happy with the standard achieved by all, and gave a special

mention to Chelsea Rees, who achieved her 3rd degree.

A celebration buffet and disco was held at the Barry football club, where certificates and new black belts were presented to all the successful students.

RON THOMAS



ABOVE:  
Students at Cadoxton Schools of Tae Kwon Do successfully passed their examinations held on April 17.

## LATEST NEWS FROM PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB

# Deleted your deleted items? Kevin is on hand to assist!

**THERE is nothing like a challenge, and Kevin was asked to talk about three topics.**

The challenge was that although he could happily deliver a complete talk about each one, he needed to condense them down to a single evening. To the satisfaction of the Penarth Computer Club members, he managed to compromise and to cover his brief by the simple expedient of doubling the length of his 'chat', and throwing in an extra bit about using a virtual PC.

His ability to present his topics with clarity, and to just the right depth of information, means that he maintains interest the whole time.

Part 1 of this report notes the virtual PC and deals with un-deleting files; Part 2 (next week) will report on System Restore and Finding Files.

Kevin asked about operating systems: who used Windows XP and who used Windows Vista? Oddly enough, a show of hands revealed that those using the same system were sitting on the same side of the room (with a small preference for XP).

No problem for Kevin, who promptly demonstrated how to run Vista and open a virtual computer running XP within it. It puts quite a load onto the computer's processor, but enabled the variations between the two systems to be shown where appropriate. (There is a useful article on creating your own virtual PCs at <http://www.rawcomputing.co.uk/virtualpc.html>).

Members were then told how to undelete files. To set the scene, Kevin explained a little of what goes on when files are deleted.

In the first instance, they are sent to the Recycling Bin. At this stage, they have not been deleted at all, but simply noted for deletion when the Recycling Bin is emptied and they can be easily restored.

Windows simply makes the filename readable again in the folder where the file is stored. (If you are confident that you will not need to restore the file you can by-pass the recycling bin by depressing the Shift key as you delete the file. It is equivalent to deleting it from the Recycling Bin).

When the files are deleted from the bin, the file itself is still not actually deleted. What happens is that the index (File Allocation Table) on the disk is altered, and the space where the file is stored is made available to be written on. (Rather like removing the label from a video tape. The tape is now available to record another programme, but the original recording is still there until something overwrites it.)

Just as you could watch the video until it has been overwritten, so it is possible to recover the file until it has been overwritten. Some software will be needed to find it and read it. The longer the space is left available to be written on the more likely it is to happen and once it happens, the original file cannot be retrieved.

At this point it is worth noting that if you delete everything from your hard drive when you dispose of a computer, there may be files that could nevertheless still be recovered. To avoid personal information being recovered and misused, you would be safer to use a programme that will deliberately overwrite the disc with garbage – perhaps more than once to be sure.

You could keep the disk and use it as extra storage capacity, or remove it and attack it with a sledgehammer to make it physically impossible to read. A bit extreme perhaps, but possibly therapeutic!

To recover accidentally deleted files, stop working on the computer immediately and run your recovery programme as soon as possible. The operating system is constantly reading and writing to the disk so the sooner the better.

To be able to run the recovery programme straight away, it makes sense to have it on the computer already, otherwise loading the programme could overwrite the very file you are trying to recover!

Kevin suggests a free programme, Recuva, from [www.recuva.com](http://www.recuva.com). You don't want to be learning when you have an emergency on your hands, so he suggests loading it and exploring it to familiarise yourself with the way it operates.

In demonstration, the downloading and installing took just a couple of minutes and some files were deleted and recovered on the spot.

The programme looks for all deleted programmes in the areas designated and lists and categorises them as recoverable or not. Note that the first character of the filename has been deleted and replaced by an underscore. ("abcd.xyz" would become "\_bcd.xyz") It is up to you to change it back after the file has been recovered.

The recovered file needs to be written to another drive (internal, external or USB). This is because you would not want a recovered file to overwrite the area that contains the next file you want to recover! Once you have recovered them, the files can be moved around as you please, of course.

There is a greater chance of recovering small files as they are less likely to be overwritten. You cannot normally recover files from a folder if the folder has been removed.

Penarth Computer Club next meets on Tuesday, May 26 at 7.30pm in All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth. Peter will be using plain English to talk about the cutting edge of mobile phone technology and what's on the way. Visitors and new members are welcome.

For more information, ring Howard on 029 2070 8439.

HD

## Do you have a bear that would dare?

from St Cadoc's (Old Village) church, Cadoxton, or telephone 749689.

The parishioners of St Cadoc's and St Mary's churches take part in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas child shoebox appeal, and last year were able to send 500 gift filled shoeboxes to needy children in Eastern Europe.

As we need to cover transportation charges for this year's appeal, we hope to raise as much money as possible, to enable us to reach even more children this Christmas.

All proceeds from this event are in aid of the Operation Christmas child shoebox appeal.

## It's a double gold for the pupils of St Richard Gwyn!

JAMIE SEXTON, year-11 pupil at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, put last year's disappointing season behind him

by claiming gold in the Cardiff and Vale Schools track and field championships for pupils in years 10 and 11.

Jamie captured gold ahead of rivals Jamaal Wytte of St Teilo's and Steffan Jones of Bro Morgannwg. After his success, Jamie competed in the regional championships on May 9 where he took another gold.

These achievements are a most promising

start to his outdoor season, after being recently crowned Welsh indoor 60 skiers in this regional competition.

Ciaran is also currently sitting his GCSEs at St Richard Gwyn and did a fantastic job achieving these results in the championships while studying



ABOVE:  
Ciaran O'Beirne

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# BRIDGEND ATHLETIC RUGBY ROUND-UP

## One-way final as Ath run riot

THE culmination of an eventful Ospreys campaign saw Bridgend Athletic under-13s meet Mumbles in this year's final of the Ospreys Shield.

The weather more than matched the occasion with a glorious summer day to witness a brilliant display of running rugby by the Ath.

The opening 10 minutes were a tense affair, with both sides not wanting to make any mistakes and some very physical encounters taking place in the forward exchanges. Mumbles looked dangerous with ball in hand and made several clear breaks, only for a determined Ath defence to prevent them from scoring.

Slowly but surely, the Ath forwards started to gain supremacy up front and this led to some quality ball being gained for the backs. The Ath backs were in fine form and the speed with which they put the ball through the hands really was a pleasure to watch.

The first try of the day for the Ath was scored by winger Lewis Dunlop, who finished off a fine move with blistering pace in the corner. This was converted by skipper Josh Carey.

Tries followed for Morgan Coates and Josh Evans, both fine individual efforts, one of which was converted by Carey.

Mumbles, to their credit, fought hard and responded with a good try which was duly converted. The Ath, however, knew that if they could continue in their attacking style of play, then they could score a decisive try before half time. This they achieved through both Lewis Dunlop and Josh Evans crossing with Billy Borge converting one.

The second half saw the Ath come out full of confidence and in no time they were back in try-scoring

mode and scrum half Ryan Hemburrow, who was having a brilliant game, was first to pounce on a loose ball near the try line after some fine pressure on the outside half by Josh Evans.

The patterns of play the Ath were starting to display were nothing short of breathtaking and, despite Mumbles never giving up, they simply had no answer to what was now a rampant Ath performance.

A further try was scored by Morgan Coates, who was extremely powerful in attack and devastating with his trademark hits in defence. Skipper Josh Carey was colossal in both attack and defence, and he really led the charge from the midfield.

Up front, Ben Cording worked tirelessly throughout the game and flanker Sam Donagh was outstanding in all areas. Josh Evans was next over the try line with two brilliant individual efforts to take his tally to four for the game, both converted by Josh Carey.

Despite the second half being only 15 minutes old, the final try by Morgan Coates, his hat trick, saw the end of the game due to the Ath being clear by more than 50 points.

This was a truly remarkable performance and despite several harsh lessons for the Ath youngsters this season they have bounced back and saved their best performance for the end to win the Ospreys Shield in true style.

**Final score: Bridgend Athletic 60, Mumbles 7.**

The boys have one final game this season, a curtain raiser to the Silver Ball against Aberavon Quins at Llanaffrahan RFC at the end of May, before a well-deserved rest.

IG

## PENCOED RUGBY UNDER-8S TRIPLE TRIUMPH ENDS SEASON ON HIGH

IT was a thrilling finale to a solid season with the Pencoed under-8s Tag rugby team.

They won their own tournament, winning every game, and also won the recent Pontyclun tournament, again winning every game.

This year's Bridgend and District tournament, which was held at Nantymoel, featured six teams; Pencoed, Garw, Porthcawl, Tondu, Kenfig Hill, and Bridgend Sports.

Pencoed had a slow start with a draw against Porthcawl. The final score was Pencoed 2, Porthcawl 2.

Next they had convincing wins against Tondu (Pencoed 5, Tondu 3), and Bridgend Sports (Pencoed 5, Bridgend Sports 0).

The Garw, however, held Pencoed to a 2-2 draw. The tournament all came down to the thrilling

final match, the last Tag rugby match for the season before the Pencoed team move up to under-9s.

It was fitting that this 10-a-side Tag match was probably the best display of fast flowing rugby that the team has ever achieved, with every member of the team passing and playing well, for a final score Pencoed 6, Kenfig Hill 1.

Congratulations go to all the team members involved: Michael Bosley, Rhys and Thomas Bending, Jonathon Carr, Sam Costelow, Tyrion Harding, Ben Humphreys, Owain John, Oliver Lewis, and Bradley Thorne. Other squad members were Rhys Spurgeon, Joseph Wareham.

A special thank you also goes to the coaching staff, and to everyone else involved at Pencoed RFC mini rugby, not forgetting a special thank you to all the parents, who of course come rain or shine turn up week after week!

## Agony for the Bridgend Blue Bulls in Scott McRorie final

THE first round of the Welsh Conference Premier 2009 was played as part of the Scott McRorie nines tournament.

The annual rugby league season opener kicked off at St Albans RFC in Cardiff with some emphatic wins in appalling conditions.

**BRIDGEND BLUE BULLS 22  
NEWPORT TITANS 4**

THE torrential rain fell as the Bridgend Blue Bulls overcame the Newport Titans 22-4 in a game that was mistake-ridden, primarily due to the slippery conditions.

The first mistake came from the kick off and the Titans capitalised as James Powell dived in, giving his side the 4-0 lead.

The Blue Bulls immediately responded with two quick tries of their own from Matthew Hutchins and Carl Davies.

Both were converted by Jamie Murphy, giving the Bulls a 12-4 lead.

Just before the break, they added another from Dan Smith and, with another conversion from Murphy took the half time score to 18-4.

As the rain got heavier, the mistakes from both sides mounted, with knock-ons a plenty.

Midway through the half, Carl Davies added his second try of the game which remained unconverted and proved to be the final score of the game.

The Blue Bulls won 22-4.

**CARDIFF DEMONS 14  
PORT TALBOT STEELERS 0**

THE second game of the tournament was a low-scoring game – again due to a greasy ball in terrible conditions and Cardiff Demons continued their winning ways

against the Steelers, winning by 14-0.

The first half seemed to see the ball on the ground more than in hand but an inspired run by hooker Tom Jones saw the Demons take a 4-0 lead at the break.

The second half left off where the first began but it was again the Demons who took the initiative with a deft kick over the top pounced on by Jamie Chapman under the posts to extend the lead.

Doug Hann added the extras giving the Demons a 10-point lead.

On the final play of the game, the Demons had success using the same ploy, with Shane Goddard kicking on and diving on the ball to give the Demons the 14-0 win.

**AFTER THE PRELIMINARY ROUND, THE REMAINDER OF THE TOURNAMENT WAS CONTESTED BY SIX TEAMS AFTER THE BLACKWOOD BULLDOGS WITHDREW AND THE VALLEY COUGARS WON THE FINAL IN A THRILLER CLINCHING THE TROPHY WITH THE LAST KICK OF THE GAME.**

Cardiff Demons who had won the tournament on the last two occasions were eliminated in the early stages with losses at the hands of the Valley Cougars, Torfaen Tigers, Bridgend Blue Bulls and Newport Titans.

After the round robin stage, Newport Titans took a stranglehold on the game which they never released running out 18-4 winners.

In an exciting final where the lead changed hands no less than four times it took the final kick of the game from Valley Cougars Paul Emanuelli to take the trophy back to Nelson, beating the Bridgend Blue Bulls 22-20.

MARK HARRIS

## As Mr Sinatra put it – 'It was a very good year'

### BRIDGEND ATHLETIC RFC – SEASON 2008-2009

**OVERALL** for the Webb Ellis Welsh Youth Cup. They also won the District Cup and were Ospreys Division 'A' Champions.

Naturally the success of the youth set up, who have won the Welsh Youth Cup in two of the previous three seasons attracts Premiership and other clubs to look at our players.

While the Athletic Club encourages its talented players to fulfil their potential, it does feel that most players will benefit by playing a good standard of rugby with the Athletic at Division One level, and gaining experience of senior rugby in an environment they are comfortable with, before moving on.

The alternative is often a wasted season as a bit part player warming Premiership benches.

**OUTSIDE** half Matthew Morgan and lock Lloyd Peers both played at under-18 level for Wales. The club has three former players at the Ospreys.

Our most successful former player, full back Lee Byrne, is destined to become the first British Lion produced by the club. We wish him all the best in South Africa.

Scrum half Rhys Webb and hooker Scott Baldwin also have Ospreys contracts. Webb was a member of the Wales seven-a-side

The club is holding its Player of the Year night at the Heronston Hotel on Friday, June 16. AB

## Under-12s prepare to take on European rugby challenge

**FOLLOWING A VERY SUCCESSFUL SEASON FOR BRIDGEND ATHLETIC UNDER-12S, THEY COMPLETE A GREAT YEAR NEXT WEEKEND BY JETTING OFF TO NORTHERN ITALY FOR A SIX-DAY RUGBY DEVELOPMENT TOUR.**

Sixty six players, parents and other family members will be making the trip where the Ath boys will face European opposition for the first time from teams representing Benetton Treviso and Mirano.

Team manager Angela Bennett said: "It will be fantastic for the boys to experience a different culture and to play against teams from that region which can only be a positive thing for our boys."

The team would especially like to thank S Wood Products, Bridgend, and Newton Mowers, Pyle, for sponsorship of the tour playing kit.

Many others have helped make the trip possible, especially the parents who have worked hard to raise funds over the past six months.



ABOVE: The under-12s are pictured outside S Wood Products of Bridgend, who are helping sponsor their playing kit.

## BRIDGEND TAPAS BAR SUPPORTS ATHLETIC YOUNGSTERS' SQUAD



ABOVE: The under-12s are pictured outside S Wood Products of Bridgend, who are helping sponsor their playing kit.



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Closing date: 4 June 2009.

Subject to # Job Evaluation and \*CRB disclosure.

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ANNE FRANCIS

19th May

Much love from  
Robert, Nathan  
and Hannah,  
Tristan and Ning,  
Aaron and Julia, Jotham  
and Helene, Faith and  
Glyn,  
Jane, Brian and Hannah  
xxx

EMILY  
BURFORD  
Wishing you  
a very

## Happy 18th Birthday

Love and Kisses  
Mum, Dad, Simon  
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xxx

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Refurbished throughout,  
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SHARON  
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Best wishes from all your family  
and friends, also clients at  
The Principality

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ADVERTISE HERE for up to 4 weeks for 50p a word plus VAT. To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to 'The Glamorgan Gem' at The Gem, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Advert must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. Sorry no refunds are given.

MACLAREN DOUBLE BUGGY Complete accessories £60. Britannia large cooker, currently with an LPG hob (easily converted) £350. Tel: 01446 771229. (20)

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SINGER OVER LOCKER Used once £50. Tel: 01446 772880. (21)

BRITAX ECLIPSE Car seat (9months-4yrs) £50.

Graco battery operated baby swing £30. Grandparents items, as new. Tel: 01446 732783 or 07980 939487. (21)

PORAWOTTA TOILET Manual flush. Jayrider scooter dismantle (brand new), wheelchair (brand new), hedgecutter (brand new), trimmer (brand new), Bathmaster Sonaris (brand new), walking frame (brand new), folding wheel walker, tri-wheel walker, leather sofa (good condition). Offers: Tel: 01656 890489. (21)

2 X MAXICOSY PRIOR XP Car seats, 9 month/4 years (like new) £25 each. Tel: 01446 796904. (21)

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2 X CHILDRENS BEDS Cabin £30. Pine high sleeper futon £45. Tel: 01446 790363. (19)

BROWN 2-SEATER Ikea sofa £75. Men's Trek mountain bike £50. Tel: 07795 560515. (18)

2 X MAXICOSY PRIOR XP Car seats, 9 month/4 years (like new) £25 each. Tel: 01446 796904. (21)

ROUND TABLE 42" 37" PLASMA TV Brand new in box. HD ready with Freeview receiver. Wall mount available for extra. Genuine bargain at £350. Tel: 07931 212432. (18)

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## Birthdays

## Family Notices

## Bernard Williams

Ann and Clare would like to thank all the relatives, friends and neighbours for the kindness and sympathy shown during their recent bereavement and for the cards and messages of condolence and donations to HeartLine. Thank you also to Daphne Townsend for the lovely service and Bill Price for the readings. Finally thanks to John and Christine James of W James of Fonmon for their excellent care and service.

## Dorothy SEWELL

Eric Sewell and his family wish to thank all their relatives, friends and neighbours for their support, messages of condolence and sympathy at this time. Also sincere thanks to all those involved in Dorothy's care.

## BURROWS

Raymond of Llantwit Major, beloved husband of Gwen, dearly loved father of Julie, Sarah and Andrew and devoted grandfather of Alex and Lewis.

Funeral on Thursday, 28th May, 2009, service in St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major at 2pm followed by interment at Boverton Cemetery.

Family flowers only but donations may be made to Marie Curie Cancer Care (cheques only) c/o W A Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major.

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and 0 trailers.

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PUBLIC NOTICE  
LICENSING ACT 2003  
To whom it may concern

I Eugene James Lee, do hereby give notice that I have applied to the Licensing Authority (The Vale of Glamorgan Council) for a variation of my premises licence registration certificate at The White Lion Hotel, East Street, Llantwit Major, Vale of Glamorgan CF61 1XY known as The White Lion Hotel.

The application is to allow amplified live entertainment between the hours of 18.00 and 01.00 on Sunday to Thursday and from 23.30 Friday and Saturday.

Any person wishing to make representations to this application may do so by writing to the Senior Licensing Officer, Civic Offices, Holloway Road, Barry, CF63 4RU, not later than 28 days from and including the date of this notice (as below). Representations received after this date will not be considered.

A copy of the application can be viewed at the licensing authority's address during normal office hours.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5000.

Signed: Eugene James Lee  
Applicant  
Dated: 16th May, 2009

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# LOCALS ON TOP AT CARDIFF AND VALE SCHOOLS MEET

FOR the second Cardiff and the Vale Schools fixture – the senior championships for sixth form students – it was Vale athletes who produced the top individual performances, and a local school claimed the team honours.

Two new championship bests were set – both by Vale girls.

Llantwit year-12 Ayla Phillips has an unblemished record at Cardiff and the Vale Schools track and field championships. Her link with the hammer event started way back as a year-9 pupil in 2006. She won that first junior girls' competition, and set a new championship best.

She repeated that pattern of a win with a new championship best through year-10 (first middle title) and last year, in year-11 (a second middle title). Each year, the winning distance has improved and 2009 was no exception.

As a first year senior, and competing at Cardiff International Sports Stadium in a hammer competition for the first time, Phillips claimed her fourth consecutive title with a throw of 35.11 metres, adding over three metres to the previous best of 31.63 metres set by Ceri Lewis (Radyr) in 2006.

Pleasing though that performance is, and the shot victory, which she also claimed, Phillips

needs to keep working towards a target distance of 40 metres for the season.

Unusually, a second Vale pupil has a very similar record to Phillips. Penarth resident Elinor Lewis (Bro Morgannwg) was claiming her fourth consecutive title in possibly a more demanding and dangerous record – the pole vault.

Lewis also won her first title in 2006, but her 2.80 metres clearance was not a new championship best. However, she made up for that in 2007, when her 3 metres vault was a new event best.

A second middle title followed last year with a 2.90 metres vault, and this year, claimed a first senior win with a new height of 3.30 metres.

For good measure, the Bro Morgannwg year-12 student also won the triple jump with a very respectable leap of 10.30 metres.

Two more Vale girls claimed double victories. Barry student Sian Balchin (Kings Monkton) was the top thrower in both the discus and javelin events, while the multi-talented Maddi Edgeworth (Cowbridge) claimed a sprint hurdles and 800 metres double.

In the boys' competition, Curtis Matthews (Barry Comprehensive) was the athlete who caught the eye, repeating his Senior Cup Final feat of three victories in the high jump, long jump and discus, with improved performances.

The Welsh Schools' international has huge potential and is making real progress under the guidance of top combined events coach Mike Guest.

Stanwell year-13 Adam Jones earned a sprint double but he was the victim of a stadium, which seems, sadly, to have inherited the old Leckwith's biggest complaint of suffering from regular, unhelpful headwinds. He will be disappointed by his times, but this is early season and hopefully conditions will improve.

After Bro Morgannwg's double success at the Senior Cup Final, it was



Mike Lloyd (Cowbridge) won the 100 metres hurdles, and finished second in the high jump.

Cowbridge who enjoyed double team success at these championships.

Last year, the Vale school won the boys' team title with a score of 340 points, with Whitchurch heading the girls' section. This year, the team took both sections with scores of 354 and 301, which puts them out in front in the quest for the Overall Championships Points Trophy.

Following these championships, Cardiff and the Vale will select a senior team to compete at the Aviva Welsh Schools' national track and field championships at the new Cardiff stadium on Saturday, July 4.

The district is entitled to enter two athletes in every senior event, with the option of further athletes in some events if all those nominated have achieved the additional entry standard.

All the winners at these championships are asked to make a note of Tuesday, September 8, which is the date of the Cardiff and Vale Schools Track and Field presentation evening, which will be held at Cardiff High School.

Results of Vale athletes: Senior Boys – 100: 1 Adam Jones (Stanwell) 12.0; 5 Fred White (Cowbridge) 12.3; 6 Jack Fisher (Cowbridge) 13.9; 200: 1 Adam Jones (Stanwell) 23.6; 3 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 24.7; 5 Dan Jones (Cowbridge) 25.6; 6 Matt Rowlands (Cowbridge) 26.5; 400: 2 Fred White (Cowbridge) 54.5; 6 Tom Harrison (Cowbridge) 59.4; 800: 4 Tom Larkin (Cowbridge) 2:25.8; 1,500: 2 Joe Beech (Cowbridge) 4:45.4; 5 Kyle Garrison (Llantwit) 6:38.6; 3,000: 2 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 10:18.4; 3 Steffan Kitchen (Cowbridge) 13:27.1; 110H: 1 Mike Lloyd (Cowbridge) 20.4; 400H: 3 Tom Williams (Bro M) 64.6; 4 Mike Lloyd (Cowbridge) 68.0; 5 Nick Davies (Cowbridge) 73.5; 2,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 7:10.2; 3,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 9:15.2; 4,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 11:15.2; 5,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 13:15.2; 6,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 15:15.2; 7,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 17:15.2; 8,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 19:15.2; 9,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 21:15.2; 10,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 23:15.2; 11,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 25:15.2; 12,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 27:15.2; 13,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 29:15.2; 14,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 31:15.2; 15,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 33:15.2; 16,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 35:15.2; 17,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 37:15.2; 18,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 39:15.2; 19,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 41:15.2; 20,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 43:15.2; 21,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 45:15.2; 22,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 47:15.2; 23,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 49:15.2; 24,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 51:15.2; 25,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 53:15.2; 26,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 55:15.2; 27,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 57:15.2; 28,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 59:15.2; 29,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 61:15.2; 30,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 63:15.2; 31,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 65:15.2; 32,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 67:15.2; 33,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 69:15.2; 34,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 71:15.2; 35,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 73:15.2; 36,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 75:15.2; 37,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 77:15.2; 38,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 79:15.2; 39,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 81:15.2; 40,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 83:15.2; 41,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 85:15.2; 42,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 87:15.2; 43,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 89:15.2; 44,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 91:15.2; 45,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 93:15.2; 46,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 95:15.2; 47,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 97:15.2; 48,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 99:15.2; 49,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 101:15.2; 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70,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 143:15.2; 71,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 145:15.2; 72,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 147:15.2; 73,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 149:15.2; 74,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 151:15.2; 75,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 153:15.2; 76,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 155:15.2; 77,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 157:15.2; 78,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 159:15.2; 79,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 161:15.2; 80,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 163:15.2; 81,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 165:15.2; 82,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 167:15.2; 83,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 169:15.2; 84,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 171:15.2; 85,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 173:15.2; 86,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 175:15.2; 87,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 177:15.2; 88,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 179:15.2; 89,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 181:15.2; 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## THE LATEST NEWS FROM BRYNHILL GOLF CLUB

### The ladies host a charity coffee morning for RNID

ON the morning of May 7, the ladies of Brynhill Golf Club hosted a charity coffee morning, the proceeds of which will go to lady captain's nominated charity. Jo Hopkins chose the Royal National Institute for the Deaf.

Following a most enjoyable 12-hole competition, where the weather was pleasant and the course was in great condition, the ladies met back in the clubhouse for refreshments.

A stall selling homemade cakes and a sale of this season's latest golf wear proved hard to resist for many.

The lady captain then presented home and away winners and runners-up with vouchers.

**Away winner** – Helen Minto (Whitchurch) with 21 points over the back nine (from Ann Morris of Maesteg).

**Home winner** – Diane Davies with 26 points;



**Joan Coombes and Val Weir distributing the cards.**

runner-up – Glynis Gould with 21.

Carole Bumford was the only player to score a two and was delighted to accept the entire ball sweep, which she graciously shared with her playing partners.

#### Recent results round-up

**March 17** – Turkey Trot – winner Julie Harkin with 37 points.

**March 24** – John Collins Cup and GUW Medal – winner: Julie Harkin (77 nett), runner-up: Diane Davies (80 nett).

**March 31** – Lady Reardon Smith Silver Salver – winners: Diane Tapscott and Nicci Meheut, runners-up: Rose Pitman and Audrey Phillips.

**April 7** – Easter Egg competition – winner: Sue Holland (36 points), runner-up: Lynne Bubbins (35 points).

**April 14** – John Lowden Cup and Foundation Brooch – winner: Gemma Evans (67 nett), runner-up: Maria Gentile (76 nett).

**April 21** – GUW Challenge Bowl – silver winner: Lynne Bubbins (75 nett); bronze winner: Diane Bryant (74 nett).

**May 5** – Winifred Clode Cup – winner: Carole Bumford (37 points), runner-up: Rose Pitman (36 points).

JP



**ABOVE:** Carole Bumford, the ball sweep winner, with the lady captain.



**ABOVE:** Helen Minto, the away winner, with the lady captain, Jo Hopkins.



**ABOVE:** The lady captain with home winner Diane Davies.

### Murch Bowling Club's season begins with a glorious open day

THE best weather for several years saw the Murch Bowling Club celebrate opening day in glorious sunshine with a mixed game of ladies and men.

President Gwladys Hayes and vice-president Bill Frampton welcomed members and declared the green open.

The traditional opening 'Spider' (nearest wood to a bottle of whisky in the centre of the green) was won by Jackie Warman, who playfully resisted attempts from members to open her prize.

The winning mixed rink was skipped by president Gwladys, ably assisted by Bill Frampton.



**ABOVE:** President Gwladys Hayes with vice-president Bill Frampton at the opening day at the Murch Bowling Club.

Maurice Warman and Myra Rice.

At the splendid post match buffet, provided by members, club captain Gus Santavy presented plaques to the winning rink.

Opening day festivities behind them, the ladies started their bowls programme with a 'friendly' encounter against Barry Athletic, narrowly losing by three shots, 43-46.

Gloria Perry and Cynthia Tranter skipped their rinks to 17-12 and 17-14 wins respectively, but skip Belinda Price's quartet went down 9-20.

This game was followed by an afternoon Glamorgan League game against the ladies from Windsor Penarth, which resulted in a 55-44 win for the Murch ladies, with Gloria Perry and Judy Fudge skipping their rinks to 19-13 and 23-13 wins, while Cynthia Tranter's 'four' succumbed 13-18.

Further successes were registered against Pontyclun (friendly) 78-65, Rumney Gardens (Evening League) 40-23 and Penylan (Afternoon League) 45-41.

The Murch men began their programme with three friendly games, winning against St Joseph's, drawing against Cardiff Masonics and losing against Barry Romilly.

However, no wins were recorded in the first three cup and league games.

In an Alliance game, Murch went down 38-48 against Barry Plastics, Cadoxton were victorious 99-52 in a South Vale A team competition, while Barry Romilly succeeded by 75-50 in a Munro Cup game.

## James Tudor notches 150th between-the-flags triumph

by BRIAN LEE

COWBRIDGE'S James Tudor chalked-up his 150th win between-the-flags when winning the 2m 5f maiden race at the recent Vale of Aylesbury Point-To-Point Steeplechases.

He was on the Alan Hill-trained *Sir Ronan*, who won by 10 lengths from *Mirage Prince*. Tudor (26), rode his first winner, *Mecca Prince*, at a West Wales meeting in 2000 and only three other Welshmen have ridden more. He has also ridden around 20 winners under rules, and he later took the intermediate on *More Trouble*.

Of the three Welsh riders who have ridden more winners, two of them are from the Vale.

They are the legendary John Llewellyn, who rode a total of 270 winners, and Evan Williams, who notched-up 198 winners before hanging-up his riding boots.

Carmarthen's Dai Jones bagged his 200th winner earlier this season.

All three of the Vale's riders have won the national riders' championship title. Llewellyn won it 1983, Williams in 2002 and Tudor in the

### Ten shots in three ends see Athletic home

**ATROCIOUS conditions greeted Barry Athletic's first team in their opening WBA Carruthers Shield qualifier at Bridgend Municipal on Saturday.**

Persistent rain and a bitterly cold wind made it a difficult afternoon for both teams, but the Athletic coped reasonably well and scraped home by six shots, winning 71-65.

Two Athletic rinks went down narrowly, while Glyn Thomas' rink managed a 14-14 tie.

Dean Rees' rink provided the match winning touch in real style and ran out victors by 23-11 to ensure an overall victory.

Dean's squad ended with a tremendous flourish - rattling up 10 valuable shots in the closing three ends. Garry Gane, Mike Vaughan and Geoff Whittaker were the supporting cast in Dean's line-up.

The Athletic senior squad, captained this season by DK Williams,

CLIVE PHILLIPS

have displayed encouraging form in all their early games and must now maintain their winning sequence when continuing their WBA programme this weekend, with a home game against Maesteg Welfare.

Barry Athletic's second string raised the curtain on the PG2 front with a 10-4 win against Penarth Rectory Road at Barry Island - a good start for new captain Eric Booker.

Ivor Stevenson skipped his rink to a runaway 34-10 triumph that clinched the match.

Scores: Barry Athletic at Bridgend Municipal: J Horgan, J Beanland, G Humphreys, R Horgan 16, H Jenkins, T Jones, M Jones, D Stephens 20. D Evans, JR Evans, DK Williams, G Thomas 14, D Job, N Walker, B Goddard, A Hunter 14. G Gane, M Vaughan, G Whittaker, D Rees 23, M Darra, A Davies, E Murphy, K Adams 11. D Snelling, M Eskins, JP Donovan, C Blake 18, P Anderson, G Caldwell, S Rees, D Vincent 20.

CLIVE PHILLIPS

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CLIVE PHILLIPS

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So we look forward to an even more successful season starting in September, when the men's A team will battle it out with the 'big boys' in the south Wales leagues and the A team take on the best in south Glamorgan.

*Junior coaching continues throughout the summer, any enquiries for junior or senior membership, contact Clive Prigg on 01446 773729.*

### BARRY FUN RUN WILL HELP FAMILIES FROM ACROSS WALES

**REGISTRATIONS are already pouring in for the first ever Ty Hafan Barry Island Fun Run, and the family hospice for young lives is encouraging would-be participants to get their entry forms in early, so as not to be disappointed, as places are limited to 500.**

The event, which takes place on May 31 and has replaced the annual Barry Waterfront 5K Run, has now been made more family-friendly by taking it off road and shortening the distance to 3.5K, which can be run or walked according to age and ability.

Making it a family event has opened it up to a much wider age group and the day promises

to be a lot of fun," said event organiser Alan Drury.

The funds raised through taking part in the run will enable Ty Hafan to continue offering its services to life-limited children, young people and their families, from across Wales, although many come from the local area.

Families like the O'Neils, whose 11-year-old son James has been spending time at Ty Hafan for the past eight years.

James has cerebral palsy and is one of four siblings aged between five and 13-years-old. His eldest brother has the condition ADHD (attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder).

"Knowing that James can go to Ty Hafan is nothing short of a life-line for me," said mum Michelle.

"When he is there I know he is receiving the very best of care

and it means that I can give more attention to the other boys."

One of the first groups to register were Eagles Kick Boxing Club from Barry, who have a team of around 20 runners taking part, and they are hoping that other groups and families will take up the fun-filled challenge too.

You can get involved today by contacting Alan Drury on 029 2067 2067 or visit [www.tyhafan.org/events](http://www.tyhafan.org/events).

All entrants will receive a free goodie bag and race souvenir when they cross the finish line, and individuals raising £30 or more in sponsorship will also receive a free commemorative t-shirt.

Entry is £7 for adults, £3.50 for children (under-16 years old) or just £17.50 for a family of four (two adults and two children).

## VALE ROAD WORKS REPORT

Dock View Road at its junction with Thompson Street, Barry – ongoing temporary traffic signals, to allow construction work on the adjacent footbridge over the railway line. Town Mill Road, Cowbridge – daytime temporary traffic signals to allow Western Power Distribution to install a new cable, May 26-29 (half term week). Ty Hafan Run, Barry Island, Sunday, May 31: Station Approach

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165/70R14 Bridgestone 001 **£57.00** **£110** **£210**  
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165/60R15 Bridgestone 000 **£73.00** **£140** **£270**  
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### HIGH PERFORMANCE TYRES

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05 55 BMW 1 Series 2.0 TD 118d Sport 5-dr Hatchback	in sapphire black moire anthracite interior, cd, alloy wheels, a/c, only 39,160 miles	£10,995
05 55 BMW 320Cd 2.0 TD Sport 2-dr coupe	in titanium silver with black suede interior, shark fin aerial, cd, steering wheel mounted controls, rear parking sensors, only 39,446 miles	£13,995
02 02 BMW 3 Series 2.0 318ti SE Compact Hatchback 3-dr.	In jet black with anthracite interior, parking sensors, multifunction steering wheel, cd, climate control, electric windows and mirrors, only 79,181 miles	£4,995
01 51 BMW 2.0 318i Touring 5-dr Estate.	In steel blue with jacquard grey interior, rear parking sensors, trip computer, CD, alloy wheels, only 69,830 miles	£5,995

### CONVERTIBLES

02 02 PORSCHE Boxster S 3.2 2-dr convertible	in brilliant silver with black leather interior, 18inch sport design alloy wheels, wind deflector, heated seats, only 38,850 miles	£14,995
02 02 VOLVO C70 2.0T Convertible 2-dr.	In Silver with beige leather upholstery, air con, electric windows and mirrors, CD, alloy wheels, only 63,125 miles	£6,995
05 05 MGTF 1.6 115 Convertible	In ignition blue, rear glass screen, alloy wheels, CD, only 18,025 miles	£5,995
99 99 T MAZDA MX5 1.8i 2-dr Convertible 10th Anniversary Limited Edition	In metallic blue with blue/black interior, or, alloy wheels, CD, alarm, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, only 42,422 miles	£5,495
03 03 AUDI TT Roadster 1.8 Petrol 150bhp	In black, with biscuit leather interior, alloy wheels, CD, heated seats, only 32,000 miles	£9,995
03 03 MG TF Convertible 1.8 135 16v 2-dr.	In metallic silver with dark interior, alloy wheels, CD, only 22,723 miles	£4,495

### EXECUTIVE/SPORTS

06 06 VW Golf 1.9 TDI Sport 5-dr hatchback	in steel grey with grey interior, cd, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 56,325 miles	£8,995
06 06 FORD Mondeo 2.0 Titanium X 5-dr Hatchback	in stardust silver with half black leather interior, quick clear front screen, 18 inch alloy wheels, heated front seats, cd, only 21,445 miles	£7,995
06 06 FORD Focus 1.8 TDCi 5-dr hatchback	In panther black with Humy dark flint interior, cd, alloy wheels, air con, front fog, only 27,325 miles	£7,995
05 05 VOLVO S40 2.0 Diesel	In amethyst with ivory leather interior, cd, alloy wheels, cruise control, sunroof, electric seats, only 34,255 miles	£9,995
04 04 TOYOTA Celica 1.8 VVTi Premium Coupe	In crystal silver with Montreal black leather interior, climate control, alloy wheels, immobiliser, deadlocks, alarm, CD, only 27,953 miles	£8,995
04 04 ROVER 75 Tourer 2.0 CDTi Connoisseur SE 5-dr Estate Automatic	In Cimarron Green with black leather interior, walnut dash and steering wheel, alloy wheels, rear parking sensors, only 48,180 miles	£8,995
04 04 HYUNDAI Coupe 1.6S 3-dr Coupe	In smart silver with dark interior, air con, cd, alloy wheels, alarm, only 46,770 miles	£6,495
03 03 MERCEDES S350 Automatic 3.7 Petrol 4-dr Saloon	In brilliant silver with black leather, automatic climate control, walnut wood trim, sat nav, heated seats, CD, front and rear parking sensors, alloy wheels, full Mercedes service history, only 78,700 miles	£12,995
02 02 AUDI A4 SE 2.0 Petrol 4-dr Saloon Automatic	In Crystal Blue with phoenix cloth interior, parking sensors on front and rear, air con, CD, alloy wheels, electric windows, only 55,560 miles	£5,995

### ECONOMICAL SMALL CARS

08 08 FORD Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-dr Hatchback	In apple green with Cascade indigo interior, climate control, alloy wheels, CD, body coloured bumpers, heated front screen, only 3,873 miles	£5,995
07 07 FORD Focus 1.6 115 5-dr Hatchback	In metallic tango red with onyx dream interior, alloy wheels, clear front screen, cd, front fog, trip computer, air con, only 10,670 miles	£6,995
07 07 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Look 3-dr Hatchback	In aluminium silver with Madison graphite interior, air con, cd, electric front winds, only 9,120 miles	£6,495
07 07 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Extreme 3-dr Hatchback	In metallic black with dark interior, alloy wheels, CD, body coloured bumpers, front electric windows, only 19,005 miles	£6,495
07 07 FIAT Grande Punto 1.2 Active 5-dr Hatchback	In chemical gray with drop blue black interior, central locking, CD, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, only 22,120 miles	£5,795
06 06 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Zetec Climate 3-dr Hatchback	In tonic blue with tungsten/denim interior, air con, alloy wheels, quick clear screen, cd, front fog, only 24,250 miles	£6,495
06 06 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Verve 3-dr Hatchback	In onyx black with madison grey interior, air con, alloy wheels, CD, low insurance, only 14,545 miles	£5,995
06 06 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v Dynamique 3-dr Hatchback	In odyssey blue with jacquard black interior, front fog, alloy wheels, CD, only 35,870 miles	£5,995
06 06 PEUGEOT 107 1.0 12v Urban 3-dr Hatchback	In Raven black with black matrix interior, electric windows, cd, colour coded bumpers, only 16,465 miles	£5,995
06 06 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 16v SX 3-dr Hatchback	In pomegranite red with Duke charcoal interior, alloy wheels, CD, immobiliser, power steering, front electric windows, only 3,840 miles	£6,495
05 05 NISSAN Micra 1.2 16v Urbis 5-dr Hatchback	In Grey with dark grey interior, rear parking sensors, CD, alloy wheels, only 12,215 miles	£5,495
04 04 RENAULT Clio 1.5dCi Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback	In Odyssey met blue with jacquard black interior, sunroof, alloy wheels, air con, alarm, cd, only 31,538 miles	£4,995
03 03 FORD Fiesta 1.4 TDCi Ghia 5-dr Hatchback	In moondust silver with busac ebony interior, air con, cd, alloy wheels, colour coded, bumpers, only 43,745 miles	£4,995
03 03 TOYOTA Yaris GS 1.0L Petrol 5-dr	In dark green, with grey interior, central locking, CD, only 63,500 miles	£3,995
02 02 RENAULT Clio 1.6 16v Privilège 5-dr Hatchback	In Nordic silver with vertigo grey interior, air con, 5 belted seats, body coloured bumpers, power steering, only 38,940 miles	£3,995
04 04 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 Life 3-dr Hatchback	In breeze blue with Orleans charcoal interior, CD, 5 belted seats, front fog, only 56,321 miles	£3,495
02 02 FORD KA 1.3 Hatchback	Blue with blue interior, pas, insurance group 2, only 58,587 miles, £2,495	£2,495

### FAMILY SELECTION

07 07 TOYOTA Auris T3 4-Dr	In Ixion Blue Mica, with anthracite interior, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, trip computer, shift indicator, only 12,700 miles	£9,995
07 07 FORD Focus Zetec Climate 1.6 TDCi	In moon dust silver with rack ebony interior, quick clear front screen, air con, alloy wheels, only 19,200 miles	£6,995
06 06 FORD Focus 1.6 Ghia 5-dr Hatchback Automatic	In aquarius blue with cubical ebony interior, air con, cruise control, quick clear screen, only 26,900 miles	£7,995
05 05 HONDA Civic 1.7 CDTi 5-dr Hatchback	In magnetic blue with hatch black interior, body coloured bumpers, alloy wheels, CD, only 50,300 miles	£6,495
04 04 FORD Focus C-Max 2.0 TDCi Ghia MPV	In moondust silver with Linea ebony interior, alarm, cruise control, CD, alloy wheels, only 54,290 miles	£5,995
03 03 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique 5-dr	In met Hessian with charcoal grey interior, panoramic roof, air con, cd, auto lights, electric windows front and rear, 56,752 miles	£3,995
04 04 FORD Mondeo 1.8 Mistral 5-dr	In Tonic Blue with majestic ebony upholstery, air con, central locking, CD, alloy wheels, only 61,165 miles	£3,995
04 04 MG ZR-1.4 3-dr	In metallic grey with half leather interior, electric windows, air con, alloy wheels, CD, only 63,300 miles	£3,995
03 03 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.8i 16v Design 5-dr MPV	In sapphire black with Texas charcoal interior, 7-seats, cd, roof bars with bike fixings, only 56,300 miles	£3,995
03 03 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique 5-dr	In met Hessian with charcoal grey interior, panoramic roof, air con, CD, auto lights, electric windows front and rear, 56,752 miles	£3,995
02 02 CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.6i SX 5-dr MPV	In violet blue with beige interior, air con, cd, five belted seats, only 49,500 miles	£2,995
01 01 Y PEUGEOT 206 1.6GLX 5-dr	In metallic blue with dark interior, air con, front fog, only 64,000 miles, £2,995	£2,995

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08 08 FORD Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-dr Hatchback

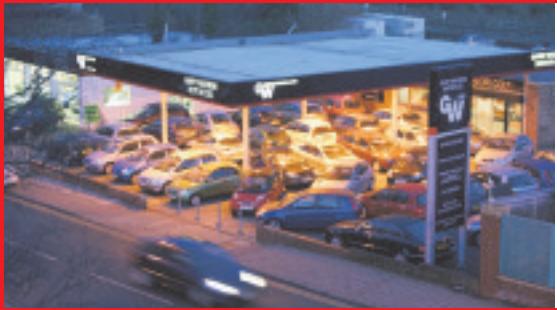
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£5,995

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81 MGB Roadster in gunmetal grey with light grey leather trim. Nut and bolt restoration. On offer at ..... £6,995



56 LEXUS IS 250 SEL (New Shape) Automatic. In met. red with cream leather, 17,000 miles ..... £17,995

# Gary Watson Motor Co Ltd

## CONVERTIBLES

99	JAGUAR XKR Convertible. In met silver with ivory leather, 61,000 miles with 20" alloys etc.	£11,995
08	PEUGEOT 307 Convertible 2.0 Sport in met grey with black leather, 10,000 miles	£10,995
52	BMW 318Ci Convertible In metallic blue with navy hood, 52,000 miles with multi cd, upgraded alloys	£8,995
04	MINI 1.6 Convertible In yellow, 39,000 miles	£8,995
81	MGB Roadster in gunmetal grey with light grey leather trim. Nut and bolt restoration. On offer at	£6,995
01	MERCEDES SLK 230 Auto. Silver, black leather trim, 76k miles, looks and drives superb	REDUCED BY £1000 TO £6,995
W	BMW Z3 1.8 In topaz blue, with blue roof and leather trim, 63,000 miles, fantastic value at	£5,495
53	MG TF 1.8 in met silver with charcoal leather trim and navy soft top, low mileage example at only	£4,995
99	MAZDA MX5 1.8. Met green with beige leather trim, 65,000 miles, host of extras	£4,995
03	MGTF 1.8 (135) In met. blue, 25,000 miles, superb example at	£4,695

## SPORT, PRESTIGE & 4X4

08	BMW 320 SE In met -silver, 9,000 miles, fantastic savings against new at	£17,995
56	LEXUS IS 250 SEL (New Shape) Automatic. In met. red with cream leather, 17,000 miles	£17,995
04	MERCEDES E320CDi Avantgarde Automatic. In tanzanita with grey leather trim, 61,000 miles, Full panoramic roof	REDUCED BY £500 TO £10,995
55	BMW 118 Diesel Sport In silver with charcoal trim, 27,000 miles, fsh	£12,995
55	MERCEDES C220 CDI SE Sport Coupe Auto. In smoke silver, 58,000 miles	REDUCED BY £1000 TO £10,995
54	BMW 530 SE Automatic In met silver with full black leather trim, full specification executive saloon at	£9,995
06	JAGUAR X-Type 2.0 Diesel in light blue met with grey half-leather trim, 71,000 miles, REDUCED BY £1000 TO £7,995	£7,995
04	BMW 320 Diesel Sport Touring In met grey with black leather trim, f antastic value at	£7,995
53	MINI Cooper S in met black with black leather trim, 65,000 miles with pan-roof	£7,995
53	MINI Cooper in met silver with black roof and half leather trim, low mileage example with full glass roof	£7,695
04	MITSUBISHI Shogun Sport 3.0 Auto Warrior In black, 41,000 miles	£6,995
53	MERCEDES C200 Kompressor 6-speed in black, 46,000 miles with cd, alloys, etc	REDUCED BY £1000 TO £6,995
52	MERCEDES C240 Avant Garde Auto in met blue, low mileage example at	£5,995
53	LAND ROVER 1.8 Freelander 1.8 Serengeti 5-Dr. In black, 57,000 miles, usual extras	£5,495
99	BMW 520 SE Auto In met blue with grey trim, 18" alloys etc.	£2,695

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07	PEUGEOT 407 2.0 HDi S/W in ice blue with full panoramic roof, high spec diesel estate at	£7,995
04	TOYOTA Avensis 2.0 Diesel T-Spirit D-4D 5-dr in met silver champagne with black leather trim, 71,000 miles, top of the range diesel at only	£6,995
06	RENAULT Clio 1.4 Dynamique 3-dr (new shape) in black, low mileage example at	£6,495
55	RENAULT Megane 1.5 Diesel Expression Automatic. In met silver, 37,000 miles	£6,495
06	NISSAN Micra 1.4 SVE Automatic. In met grey, 26,000 miles, fantastic specification	REDUCED BY £500 TO £5,995
06	PEUGEOT 207 1.4S 3-dr in met grey, very desirable hatch at	£5,995
04	TOYOTA Avensis 1.8 T3X In met silver, low mileage family car at only	REDUCED BY £500 TO £5,495
07	RENAULT Clio 1.2 Campass 3-dr in silver with cd, a/c, etc	£4,995
06	VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 12v Active Black, 12,000 miles only, low insurance, CD, alloys and air con	£4,995
55	RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 5-dr in silver, 42,000 miles with cd, sunroof, etc	£4,995
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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mazda3 range: Urban 21.4 (13.2) - 48.7 (5.8), Extra Urban 37.7 (7.5) - 74.3 (3.8), Combined 29.4 (9.6) - 62.8 (4.5). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km) 224 - 119.

Retail sales only. Subject to availability at participating dealers only on vehicles registered between 1 April 2009 and 30 June 2009. <sup>†</sup>0% finance available on Mazda Conditional Sale on all-new Mazda3 models. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Mazda Financial Services RHI ISR. Model shown: All-new Mazda3 1.6 5dr TS<sup>2</sup>, OTR £15,500. Model shown features optional metallic paint (£385) and accessories available at additional cost.

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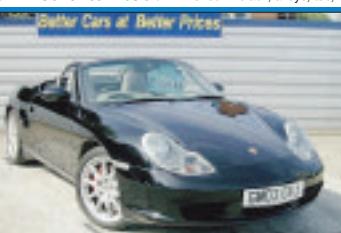
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MERTHYR YOUTH	6

**Bridgend Athletic** Youth achieved their dream at the Millennium Stadium last Saturday when they created club history, becoming League champions of Wales in an undefeated season.

Having already won the Welsh Cup, District Cup and Ospreys league, the players went into this game knowing that they were 70 minutes away from this seemingly impossible goal, but with the realisation that these were going to be against their toughest and most physically imposing opponents.

Merthyr came storming back and severely tested the Athletic defence with a series of pick and go efforts by their forwards, resulting in the Athletic conceding a penalty in front of their posts for killing the ball.

The kick was successful but a minute later, the Athletic took a lineout on the half way line and drove the ball 20 metres



penalty right on half time for offside on the Athletic 22.

The second half was not quite as frantic as the first, but the Athletic missed an early opportunity to go further ahead with a penalty when Tom Davies missed his first kick at the Millennium this year in 10 attempts.

Matthew Morgan made a great run down the touchline before releasing the ball to their backs. James Olds spotted a gap and ran 35 metres untouched before putting full back Mike Hathaway over in the corner for a fantastic try.

Tom Davies converted with a great effort to make the score 13-3 with a little over 20 minutes played.

Merthyr realised they needed to start taking risks and broke out of defence effectively on several occasions through the enterprise of their full back in taking quick throws. However, the only further score they managed was a

**ABOVE: Athletic clear the ball away en route to their victory.**

staged their last stand. Athletic number eight Tom Morgan, who had an outstanding game, was forced to leave the field in considerable pain, prompting a reshuffle in the pack.

Merthyr had some burly backs and threw themselves at the much smaller Athletic midfield trio of Morgan, Habberfield and Olds. Flankers Stuart Edbrooke and Ben Howe were prominent all afternoon, along with second rows Morgan Evans and Welsh under-18 captain Lloyd Peers.

Replacement scrum half Aled Thomas made some good opportunities for himself only to be thwarted by slipping on the tricky surface of the Millennium Stadium.

With eight minutes of injury time played, the referee blew for the end of a gripping encounter and the beginning of a deserved evening of celebrations by a fantastic squad of players and their organisational and coaching team. **PR**

## NANTYFFYLLON RFC WELCOMES A REAL SURPRISE VISITOR - WARREN GATLAND!

**THE** regulars at Nantyffylon Rugby Club were stunned on Friday evening when Wales and Lions coach Warren Gatland strolled into the club as a guest for the Falcons under-16s presentation night.

His attendance was kept as a closely guarded secret and wasn't confirmed until the very last moment, so it was the best kind of shock a rugby fan could ever ask for when he was spotted walking towards the doors.

Warren presented trophies and spoke during the presentation and was happy to have photos and sign numerous autographs, assisted by Ospreys player and local boy Mike Collins.

After the presentation Warren sat downstairs chatting with the regulars and even joined in the pub quiz.

Warren toured as a player with the 1989 All Blacks squad but they travelled so much he had forgotten about the day the squad trained at Nanty and so it was a huge surprise when he was shown a picture and actually saw himself there on the famous Nanty pitch!

During the presentation, awards were made to Ben Uphill - Most improved back; Brandon Penny - Most improved forward, and Cory Sharma - Player



**ABOVE: Warren with the Falcons.**

of the year.

Under-11s player Kieran Griffiths was also presented with his cap for representing West Wales.

Everybody at Nantyffylon would like to thank Mike Collins and Warren Gatland for making the night so special and they hope that Warren won't leave it another 20 years before returning for another warm welcome.

**JAY SHARMA**

## Brack LA serve up a five star performance in leisure league

**BRACK LA** were the big winners of the day in the Bridgend Sunday Leisure League, as they cruised through to an impressive 5-0 victory over Bluebirds.

Velindre Foundation Fundraisers might be struggling at the lower end of the table, but Leon Smith helped them to a 3-1 success over Cross Keys this week, while John West helped Mean Machine to a 3-1 win against Day Sleepers.

City Crusaders shared a thrilling 3-3 draw with Celts, but they lost ground in the title race as a

Mark Aaron-inspired Bulldogs side sneaked through 2-1 against AC Brackla.

Leisure Leagues are delighted to announce that they will soon be launching a brand new Wednesday night league at Ogmore Comprehensive School, taking place between 7pm-9pm.

Each new team will receive a free retro team kit and free entry to the league.

Anyone interested can register their team online now at [www.leisureleagues.net](http://www.leisureleagues.net), or call 0845 230 2340 for more information.

## Rhys and Joe star for West Wales team

**MANY** congratulations to Rhys Butler (Croesby Primary) and Joe Daniel (Litchard Junior) for representing West Wales under-11 recently in matches against East Wales and North Wales.

This is a fantastic achievement for both players and they deserved recognition for the hard work they have put in this season.

It is also another great achievement for Pencoed RFC mini and junior section, who continue to produce talented players season after season.

**SIMON BUTLER**



**ABOVE: Bluebirds lost to Brack LA.**

## Players are honoured at Kenfig Hill RFC

**KENFIG HILL** RFC held their annual presentation night on May 15.

The guest speaker was broadcaster Rick O'Shea, achieving a Welsh cap at under-18 level.

The following awards were made:

Ted Davies Shield for most improved player - **Scott Richards**; Arthur Hughes Cup for first team top try scorer - **Steven Shalders**; Gwilym Thomas Cup for referees' player of the year - **Matthew Bater**; Rod Thomas Shield for second team top try scorer - **Rhys Stanton**; Van Zyl Cup for clubman of the year - **Dicky Jones**; Don Evans Cup for first team player of the year - **Derwyn Rees**.

Club ties were presented to Lynn Jenkins, Rod Evans, Nigel Evans.

The club sends its best wishes to Gareth John, who has undergone a series of operations after a cartilage operation went wrong.

Gareth, a true Muler, travels regularly from his home in Chepstow to play for the club.

**GERALD O'SULLIVAN**



**ABOVE: Rhys and Joe show off their medals after representing West Wales.**



**ABOVE: The final was sponsored by the RAF with star guest the Blues' and Wales' centre Tom Shanklin, who is currently recovering from a dislocated right shoulder.**

## Nantymoel's pool stars win again!

ON May 7, Nantymoel Boys-Girls Club travelled to Barnsley to take part in the UK pool and snooker finals and once again came home national winners!

### RESULTS

**National Pool Champion:** Girls under-19, Leah Spanswick; under-14 Harriet Teal; under-12, Shannon Matthews.

**National Pool Champion:** Boys under-19, Michael Chillcott; under-16, Corey Baker; under-12, Jake Matthews.

**National Snooker runner-up:** Christopher Edwards.

## Crusaders new match date

THE postponed Celtic Crusaders v Wakefield Trinity Wildcats game will now be played on Saturday, May 30, with a 7pm kick-off, and will be shown live on Sky Sports.

The original game on March 22, was postponed following the sad death of Wakefield Trinity Wildcats reserve team player Leon Walker during the encounter between Crusaders' and Wakefield's second string at Maesteg RFC earlier that day.

The post-mortem proved inconclusive after it was found not to have been caused by trauma or by any injury sustained playing rugby league.

A special presentation was made to **Gareth Harvey** in recognition of